Improvised meth-making nets man 41 months in prison. PAGE 2
Helicopter squad contains brush fire in southern Guam. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

75¢

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RESILIENT TYPHOON
U.S. Air Force crew chiefs assigned to the 35th Fighter Wing put chocks down to secure a U.S. Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam last April 22, 2019. Airmen and aircraft from the 35th FW deployed to Guam from Misawa Air Base, Japan, for a dispersal exercise called Resilient Typhoon. The exercise tests Pacific Air Force's ability to execute flight operations from several locations in order to maintain readiness and involves airmen and aircraft concentrated in one place—Andersen AFB—separating via a dispersal, recovering, and then rapidly resuming operations at airports and airfields in Guam, Tinian, Saipan, Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG BRITTANY A. CHASE

Cardiac arrest from infection

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The 55-year-old man who died after a kitchen explosion at his workplace went into cardiac arrest due to infection caused by extensive burns to his body, coupled with his history of diabetes.

According to Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services spokesman Derek Gersonde yesterday, Ramoncito Apostol was pronounced dead Monday at 8:42am due to cardiac arrest.

Separately, based on the DFEMS scene investigation and findings,

» Investigators determine fire was accidental

Gersonde said the cause of the fire was determined to be accidental in nature and that DFEMS considers the case closed.

Apostol reportedly sustained second and third degree burns to 70 percent of his body.

Saipan Tribune learned that the explosion happened Saturday morning at the Sea Fun Villa in San Vicente, where Dan Liu, a popular cosplay model in China, had drowned in its swimming pool in September 2017.

See CARDIAC on Page 4

Losartan out at CHCC

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Following a recent U.S. Food and Drugs Administration recall of a hypertension maintenance drug, the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has pulled out all of its stocks of the drug from its in-house pharmacy.

"We took them off the shelves as soon as it was recalled," said CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña yesterday, referring to the FDA's re-

See LOSARTAN on Page 4

Rent increase common complaint after Yutu

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Of all the price-related complaints brought to the attention of the Office of the Attorney General after Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, the most common was the sudden increase in apartment and housing rental fees.

This, despite a price freeze implemented by the Commonwealth government soon after Yutu's devasta-

See RENT on Page 4

Report: IPI to partially open in September

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is set to open a portion of its multi-million-dollar casino-hotel investment—Imperial Palace Saipan—in the third quarter of the

See IPI on Page 4

File photo shows the façade of Imperial Palace Saipan in Garapan. Although its casino and a restaurant inside are already operational, construction remains ongoing at the site. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is trying to speed things up in order to meet the February 2021 deadline. JON PEREZ

INSIDE

LOCAL
Pacifica Insurance donates to Hyatt regency's upcoming 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic.

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ASIA
An earthquake hits the central Philippines a day after a 6.1 quake rattled the country's north.

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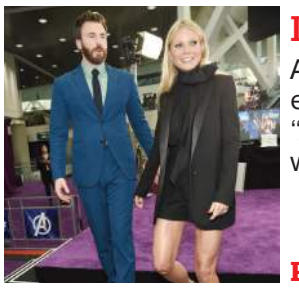

LIFE & STYLE
Avengers get an epic send-off at the "Avengers: Endgame" world premiere.

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Local

Improvised meth-making nets man 41 months in prison

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court sentenced a man yesterday to three years and five months in prison for conspiring with others to make methamphetamine or "ice" via the "shake-and-bake" style.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona also plans to recommend participation in a substance abuse program for David Muña Sablan while he is in prison.

The 40-year-old Sablan was given credit for time already served in jail. He has been in jail since his arrest last March 15, 2018.

Once he gets out of prison, Sablan will be placed on three years of supervised release.

While on probation, he will be required to participate in a substance abuse treatment program, not allowed to consume any alcoholic beverages, and shall perform 100 hours of community service.

Manglona

Sablan was ordered to pay $100 in special assessment fee and $3,662 in restitution to one of four police officers who were injured during his arrest. A restitution hearing will be done for the three other officers.

The Department of Public Safety is said to have paid the hospital bills for the police officers, but DPS has yet to submit its report for restitution to the U.S. Probation Office.

The four claimed to have suffered ill effects after opening a bag that Sablan had left behind as he was evading the police last March 15, 2018. The bag contained chemicals for making methamphetamine.

Manglona ordered Sablan to participate in the inmate financial responsibility program so he can pay restitution to the police officers.

Manglona noted that Sablan has a long criminal history starting when he was a juvenile.

In this case, there was an actual injury that the court can't dismissed.

"You need to grow up. You need to be a man." Manglona told the defendant.

Manglona told Sablan to get out from drug addiction and be addicted to his family instead.

Sablan has four children, including the youngest who was born while he was in jail in this case.

Manglona pointed out that when sober, Sablan, who is said to be good in basketball, was a valuable member of the community.

Manglona said Sablan associated with bad people and learned the shake-and-bake method in cooking meth while he was in Guam.

Manglona said they learned in another case, though, that Sablan is not the original carrier to Saipan of the shake-and-bake method.

The judge said she learned about Sablan from the presentence investigation report, that he has an issue about controlling his temper.

Before the sentence was handed down, Sablan was allowed to speak. He apologized to the court, his family, DPS, the U.S. government, U.S. Probation Office, U.S. Marshal, and court security officers for his crimes.

"I take responsibility for what I've done," he said. He promised to be a better father and son, and that he is looking forward to having a positive impact on the community.

As he has been sober for over a year now, Sablan said he now has peace of mind and, in fact, enjoys his time at the Department of Corrections.

The court-appointed counsel for Sablan, Janet H. King, concurred with the recommendation of assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe to impose on Sablan a sentence that's at the low-end range of 41 months—three years and five months.

King pointed out that Sablan substantially cooperated with investigators in this case.

King said Sablan made it clear that he needs to address his drug addiction.

The defense counsel said Sablan is best remembered by his family and friends as a good person who made bad decisions, but most of all he is remembered as a talented and passionate basketball player.

King related that Sablan and his wife's marriage became strained near the end of the 2000s. She said he then stopped playing basketball and started associating with troubled people that introduced him to gambling and drugs.

Backe, counsel for the U.S. government, said his recommendation of 41-month imprisonment is at the low end of the sentencing guidelines, but is still a substantial amount of time.

Backe said Sablan did harm some police officers, which is very troubling but the prosecution truly believes that he accepted responsibility for his actions, that he pleaded guilty immediately and cooperated with the police.

Sablan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. He said that he conspired with at least one other person to manufacture methamphetamine last March 15.

Sablan said that, at the behest of another person, he obtained items such as lye, lighter fluid, plastic bottles, and tubing, for the purpose of making methamphetamine using the makeshift "shake-and-bake" method outside Best Poker in Garapan on March 15, 2018.

As part of their plan, he was supposed to receive some of the "ice" that was produced for his personal consumption and that another person would get the rest to sell to others.

Sablan admitted that he purchased pseudoephedrine at local pharmacies on Jan. 13 and 15, 2018, twice, and on Jan. 22, 2018, to make methamphetamine.

Sablan threw a backpack and a bag that contained chemicals and items used in making "ice" during a police chase in Garapan on March 15, 2018. Four police officers complained of nausea and dizziness and vomited after they inhaled the chemicals.

CHCC: Dengue fever not a concern here

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Despite reports of the dengue virus being spotted in Guam, dengue fever remains a non-threat to the CNMI, but surveillance efforts have been heightened to ensure it does not gain entry here, according to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. chief executive officer Esther Munña.

An imported dengue fever case was confirmed in Guam last Friday, causing local public health agencies to issue warnings about mosquito breeding grounds.

Muña said in an interview yesterday that Guam is more prone to imported dengue fever cases since it has more access to the Pacific and is a hub for air travel in the region. That's not so for the CNMI, she said, which is relatively safer.

That, and the fact that the mosquito that carries the dengue virus cannot be found in the CNMI makes it a non-threat to the islands.

Muña noted that the hospital's Public Health Preparedness Program, led by Warren Villagomez, is capable of catching the presence of dengue fever on Saipan right away. She added that the CHCC Division of Public Health, along with CHCC's laboratories, are coordinating to ensure that they catch the presence of the virus right away.

"All of this is part of that integration," she said. "Right now, there is nothing. We are putting surveillance on it."

"We knew about Guam but, at the end of the day, we don't [want to] create panic. We also want to keep track of it," she said.

According to Muña, besides not having the mosquitoes that carry the disease, dengue fever is easily treatable.

News media outlets note that Palau is currently experiencing a dengue outbreak. The Palau Ministry of Health have reported a total of 164 dengue cases.

Other Pacific islands were the dengue virus is present includes Tahiti, Fiji, American Samoa, New Caledonia, and Vanuatu. French Polynesia is also seeing some dengue cases.

DPS: Almost all motorists use seatbelts

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety reported yesterday at a proclamation signing at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe that almost all motorists in the CNMI highways now use seatbelts.

DPS noted during yesterday's Click it or Ticket enforcement mobilization campaign proclamation signing that 89.28 percent of all motorists traveling on CNMI highways use their seatbelts, based on a 2018 survey.

"For everyone… please take the time to [use] seatbelts," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres after signing the proclamation.

Statistics from the proclamation noted that an estimated 14,955 lives of occupants aged 5 and older nationwide were saved by seatbelts in 2017.

"Regular seat belt use is the single most effective way to reduce fatalities in minor vehicle crashes," the proclamation noted.

Starting from May 20, 2019, through June 2, 2019, the Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization campaign will be activated in the CNMI. Law enforcers will ensure that all motor vehicle occupants are buckled up both day and night to reduce the risks of injury and death caused by traffic crashes.

"Increased enforcement of seatbelt law coupled with publicity, has proven to be an effective method to increase seatbelt use rates and decrease fatal crashes," the proclamation stated.

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Demapan confirmation enables Zoning Board quorum

JON PEREZ

Newly confirmed Commonwealth Zoning Board member Ignacio Demapan, fifth left, joins members of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for a group photo during a recess in yesterday's session at the House chamber on Capital Hill.

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ignacio Demapan looks forward to begin work with the Commonwealth Zoning Board so he could review the backlog of applications caused by the board having no quorum for almost two months.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation unanimously confirmed Demapan's appointment to the board during yesterday's session at the House of Representatives chamber on Capital Hill. All 17 members present voted in the affirmative.

The Zoning Board had seven members but failed to reach a quorum after board chair Diego Blanco resigned early this year. Mariana Taitano, Joe Ayuyu Jr., and Patrick Reyes are the current members before Demapan's appointment and confirmation.

"With my confirmation, there's now a quorum. There are seven seats on the board and [there are] four of us now," said Demapan. "I'm glad that I've got confirmed finally. I would like to extend my respect and appreciation to the governor and lt. governor."

The SNILD's Judiciary and Governmental Operations will schedule another public meeting to hear the community's opinion on Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' two other nominees to the board, Tatiana Babauta and former representative Francisco C. Aguon.

Torres earlier withdrew Vicente Sablan's nomination.

Demapan expressed concerns about the backlog, saying he supports development and investments.

"It is my intention to have a meeting with the other board members so that we could address the backlog of issues and applications," said Demapan, who is a former representative in the 4th Legislature under the leadership of former speaker Vicente Sablan.

He said that addressing all pending applications must be the first priority as the islands continue to recover from the devastation of Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I would like to assist the investors who have pending applications. At the same time, I would also like to assist the general public to sustain our culture and traditions. I would like to make sure we address the issues with respect to zoning regulations and try to assist the applicants."

Demapan brings to the board his years of being a licensed real estate broker. "I'm a resident executive for the [CNMI] Office of Indigenous Affairs Office and I am also a licensed real estate broker. So, I am pretty well eligible with respect to issues [on zoning and development]."

Torres said getting a quorum for the Zoning Board is important for the CNMI's economy. "We have a lot of recovery issues that needs to move forward."

"There are a lot of business that are asking for permits and, of course, nothing moves without zoning. So, I urge that we have these nominees [be confirmed] and that they [SNILD] act on it."

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang also showed his support for Demapan. "I've known him personally. He can be trusted and depended on. You can rely on him as far as work ethic is concerned."

IPI

From Page 1

current calendar year, according to various online reports.

Gaming news websites AGB Nippon, Calvin Ayre, GGR Asia, Inside Asian Gaming, and Radio New Zealand Pacific posted separate reports that IPI made an announcement in the Hong Kong Stock Exchange that they would have a partial opening of Imperial Palace Saipan either on or before Sept. 30.

No further details were mentioned in the HKSE announcement.

IPI already operates the casino, as well as a bar and a restaurant, inside the initial gaming facility in Garapan.

The HKSE announcement, according to GGR Asia, did not mention if a portion of the hotel would also partially begin operations. IPI is trying to open the 15 deluxe villas of its casino-resort investment and there are reports that it would begin operations later this year.

Saipan Tribune tried to confirm the news with IPI officials on Saipan but they have yet to respond as of press time. The Commonwealth Casino Commission, which has oversight over IPI, is scheduled to meet today, where the IPI announcement is expected to be further discussed. More details will be available then.

Imperial Palace Saipan already has had several name changes. It was formerly known as Grand Mariana, then it became the Imperial Pacific Resort.

IPI's project was supposed to open a year ago but various factors—from workforce and other labor issues to a couple of powerful storms (Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu last year)—slowed things down. IPI then had several extensions on the deadlines required in the casino license agreement.

Amendment 6 in August last year pushed the deadline to February 2021. CLC, however, added fines and other sanctions if IPI still fails to meet the extension's deadline.

Imperial Palace Saipan, IPI's first phase of development and investment on the island, will have a total area of 140,000 square meters once completed. It would boast of five-star luxury accommodations and amenities that includes dining and other entertainment facilities.

CARDIAC

From Page 1

The parents of Liu had sued the company that owns Sea Fun Villa.

Apostol was a former Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino executive sous chef. He worked at Sea Fun Villa as a maintenance supervisor and also lived there.

Gersonde said that DFEMS received a call from a male caller last Saturday at 7:45am, reporting about a possible structure fire at Sea Fun Villa in San Vicente. *Saipan Tribune* learned from court documents that Island Travel Investments LLC owns Sea Fun Villa.

Gersonde said that firetrucks from the Garapan and Kagman fire stations and a medic team from the Susupe Fire Station responded at 7:46am and arrived on scene at 8am.

At 8:30am, firefighters called in that the fire was under control. A fire investigator arrived on scene seven minutes later.

Gersonde said a medic team transported Apostol, who was then conscious, to the Commonwealth Health Center. Apostol reportedly sustained burns on his face, torso, and upper and lower extremities.

Initial investigations by DFEMS fire investigators revealed that a stove in the western side of the concrete kitchen had caught fire.

Gersonde said a woman who cleans the property was able to extinguish the fire before it could spread.

According to an interview by fire investigators, the woman stated that she was in her room when she heard the alarm of the vehicle that was parked next to the house go off.

When she went outside of her room on the west side of the kitchen, she saw smoke pouring out of the kitchen. She immediately ran to check on Apostol and found him trying to take off his shirt because it was on fire.

She then went inside the kitchen, grabbed the fire extinguisher, and put off the fire on the stove.

Gersonde said there were no structural damage or smoke damage.

That same day, fire investigators interviewed Apostol at the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room. He told the investigators that, earlier that day, when he went into the kitchen, he smelt the strong odor of liquefied petroleum gas. He then inspected the stove's hose and the stove itself for leaks but found nothing.

However, when he turned on the stove by turning its knob, he said there was an explosion and fire from the stove.

LOSARTAN

From Page 1

call of Losartan, which had cited carcinogenic impurities in the drug.

Carcinogens are cancer-causing substances.

"When we get notified, before it even gets out to the public, pharmacies are always notified ahead of time. Our pharmacies take them off the shelves and advise the patients that have [bought] it," Muña said.

According to Muña, people who are believed to have bought drugs after a recall are immediately contacted and asked to come in so that they can be given alternative drugs.

"The pharmacy will be working with the provider to give them an alternative medicine," she noted, adding that the recall is in effect on all three islands.

According to national media outlets, Torrent Pharmaceuticals last April 18 recalled 36 lots of losartan potassium tablets and 68 lots of losartan potassium/hydrochlorothiazide tablets for alleged NMBA contamination.

NMBA is one of the three carcinogens found in hypertension medicine produced by Torrent Pharmaceuticals. The other two include NMDA and NDEA.

The contamination was reportedly hushed for a year before health officials acknowledged the contamination, which had already exposed more than two million people around the world.

Other blood pressure drugs such as valsartan and irbesartan were also contaminated and have also been been recalled.

RENT

From Page 1

tion, which destroyed many homes on Saipan and Tinian, driving up the demand for apartment and other types of shelter.

In response to these complaints, the Consumer Protection Division of the OAG did a series of investigations to confirm the price increase and gather more details, said consumer counsel Michele Harris.

"We have seen several attempts to raise rent following the devastation of [Super] Typhoon Yutu, which left so many on our islands homeless," she said.

"To date, we have been able to work with landlords to have the rent increases reversed once the landlords were made aware of the price freeze still being in effect," said Harris, who added they also received price gouging complaints on basic commodities.

The price freeze for the entire CNMI is still in effect after Gov. Ralph DLG Torres extended—for another 30 days—the declaration of major disaster and state of significant emergency. The price freeze is renewed every 30 days.

"The [CPD] division has also investigated other complaints of prices for goods being increased, but investigations into those allegations have not rendered any violations of the Price Freeze Act," she said.

Price gouging generally takes place after a natural disaster or the declaration of a state of emergency. It involves raising the prices of goods, services, or commodities based on a sudden increase in demand and shortage of goods.

The most common items that are subject to price gouging are food, water, gas, and medicine.

Harris said the governor has constitutional powers to declare price freezes, "which lasts until the governor rescinds it or terminates the declaration of emergency or disaster.

"While under a price freeze, all items for sale and housing rental prices must remain the same," she added.

She described a price freeze as a sort of blanket of security for consumers, especially in a time of disaster recovery. "Our community continues to suffer great loss from the devasting effects of Yutu, with a large portion of the islands of Tinian and Saipan still living in tents and facing other forms of displacement from loss of jobs, reduced income, and replacement of personal possessions," she pointed out. "Because of this ongoing state of disaster, the price freeze ensures some protection and security from those who would exploit our community's vulnerability."

Residents should get in touch with Harris' office if they want to file a complaint or have any information on possible price gouging and other violations of the Price Freeze Act. For more information, contact Harris at (670) 2377500.

Cooking contests to highlight Taste of the Marianas

The 21st Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden during May 2019 Tourism Month in the Marianas just got a whole lot tastier with weekly contests announced by the Marianas Visitors Authority.

The Saturday night extravaganza will feature the Kadun Pika Contest sponsored by Ladder Beach Restaurant on May 4, the BBQ Whole Chicken Contest sponsored by J's Restaurant on May 11, the Fried Rice Eating Contest sponsored by J's Restaurant on May 18, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Chefs' Competition, also sponsored by Triple J Five Star Wholesale on May 25.

"It's going to be a great Taste!" said MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas. "Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, every Saturday night is going to have an exciting contest for our visitors and our community to really get a 'taste' of what local cooking is all about. We invite everyone to mark their calendars for a whole lot of food, fun, and festivities at Taste of the Marianas in May."

Contest rules and entry forms will be announced shortly.

The Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden is an annual signature event of the MVA and is one of the largest celebrations in the Marianas. The festival features international cuisine at affordable prices from local hotels and restaurant vendors, non-stop live entertainment on the main stage.

Twenty-three food and drink vendors have registered to offer their tastiest dishes and brews at American Memorial Park during the event. The festival will offer delights from the kitchens of Hyatt Regency Saipan, Tony Roma's/Capricciosa, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, D'Elegance Cafe, Kanoa Resort, Terry's Snack Bar, Furusato Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co., Mystique BBQ, Sierra's Pearl Shake, Kinpachi Restaurant, Herman's Modern Bakery, Ina's Kitchen, Matty's BBQ, Tropical Chill, The Hut, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Java Joe's, and Thai House. Drinks will be offered by Saipan Brewing Co., MARPAC, and Pacific Trading Co."

Additional supporting businesses include platinum sponsor Hyatt Regency Saipan and silver sponsors Ina's Kitchen, Dave Electronics, and Hawaiian Rock Products.

The festival will be held from 6pm to 10pm each Saturday (closing at 11pm on the final night). For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com, www.facebook.com/mymarianas, or email communityprojects@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

MVA

File photo shows one of the entries of the Joeten Barbecue Ribs Cook-off at the Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden on May 12, 2018.

NMC Nursing Program accepting applications for fall 2019 cohort

Students who are interested in pursuing a career in nursing can apply to become part of the Northern Marianas College Nursing Department's newest cohort in the fall 2019 semester.

Those who meet the program's requirements can submit their application before Friday, May 24, 2019.

The selection of students will be based on the following criteria: cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher; completion of all nursing and general education prerequisites with a grade of "C" or higher; the ability to understand, speak and write in English; and passage of the interview with the department.

Off-island applicants can be interviewed via telephone or videoconference.

The number of students selected will also depend on the number of faculty available to teach the class. At this time, the class size will be limited to 30 students. If there is not enough space for all applicants, a waitlist will be established.

Students are advised to make an appointment with their adviser as soon as possible to discuss prerequisites and transcripts in order to determine current standing and progress toward meeting eligibility requirements.

Selection of cohort participants will be completed before August 2019. A notification letter will be sent to each applicant using the address designated on the application. Application forms are attached or can be picked up at the NMC Nursing Department in the Archives Office of Building O, at the NMC As Terlaje campus (Monday-Friday: 8am - 4pm), or may be downloaded from www.marianas.edu.

For more information, contact the NMC Nursing Department at 237-6795 or email andrew.mendiola@marianas.edu or rosa.aldan@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

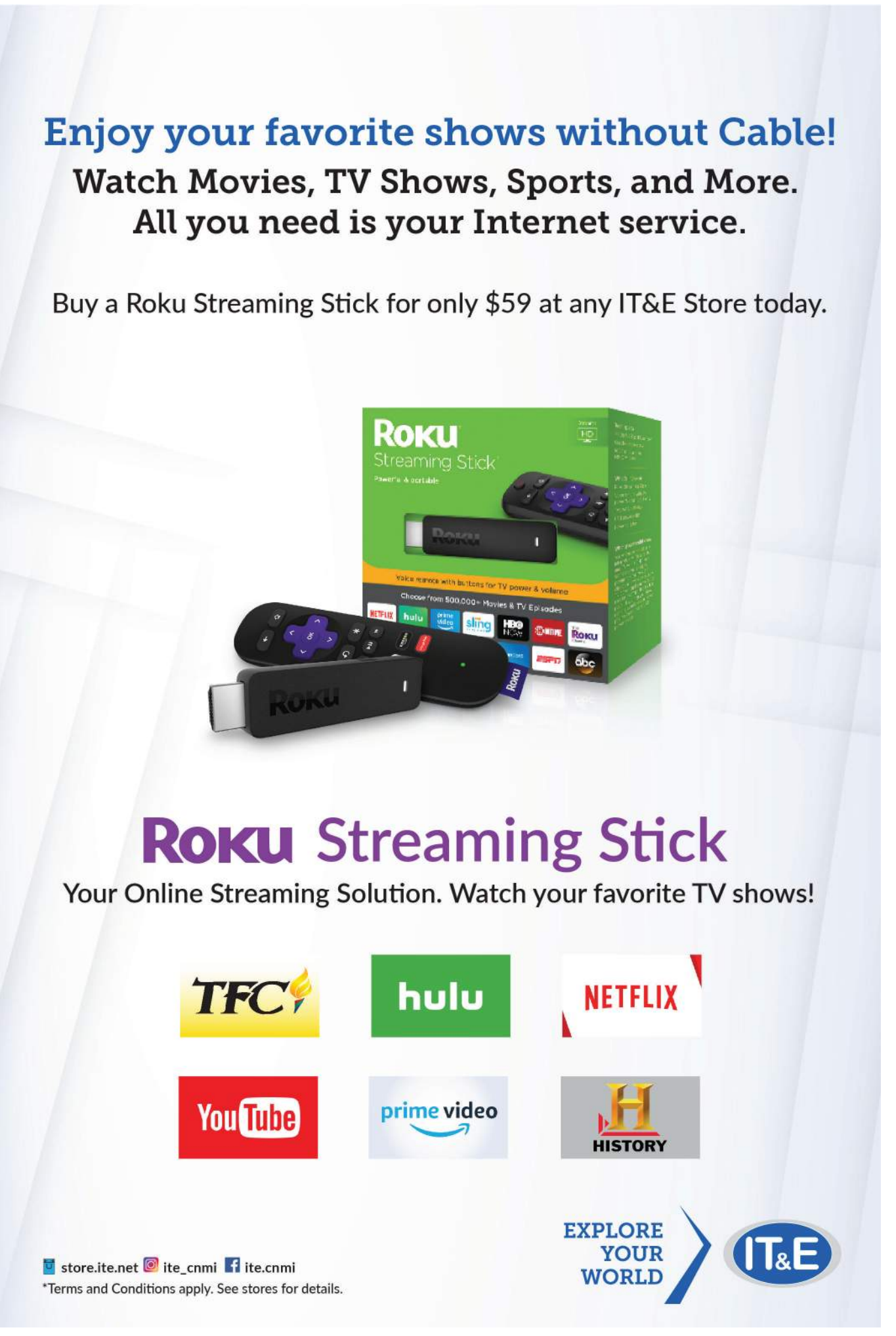
$359,537 awarded to Guam to help families conserve energy

The Guam Energy Office was awarded $213,233 in program funds for the 2019 Weatherization Assistance Program from the U.S. Department of Energy. In addition to this amount, $146,304 in funds from a previous program year was authorized for continued use through March 31, 2020.

The federally funded program helps reduce energy costs for low-income households by allowing them to replace refrigerators, window air conditioning units, light bulbs, and install smoke/carbon monoxide detectors.

Priority is given to the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and families with children. WAP services are free to households meeting criteria based on total household income and acceptable housing.

To qualify, the total household income shall not exceed the maximum income as stated at energy.guam.gov/programs-2. Or call GEO at 646-4361. ***(PR)***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EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
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AMP joins weeklong celebration of national parks

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

American Memorial Park celebrates National Park Week from April 20 to 28, along side 416 other national parks throughout the United States. From left, Community Volunteer ambassador Oceana Songsong, Pacific Historic Parks education specialist Jovannalyn Mafnas Moses, park ranger Renee Manibusan, park ranger Brooke Nevitt and Pacific Historic Parks education coordinator Nataline Kaneshi-Borlain

BEA CABRERA

From April 20 to 28, a total of 417 national parks throughout the United States, including the CNMI's own American Memorial Park in Garapan, are being celebrated as part of National Park Week.

That celebration intends to focus on the natural and cultural heritage and recreational opportunities that national parks provide to different communities, said AMP ranger Brooke Nevitt.

National parks have been around for over 100 years, she said, and each one tells a unique story and have a special place in the country's story.

"At AMP, our mission is to honor the American and Marianas people who died here during World War II," she said.

Every park has its own mission, said Nevitt. Some are focused on natural resources; others on what makes a specific place unique and special.

"Ours is really focused on the history and telling the story of what happened during World War II," Nevitt said.

The American Memorial Park was established in 1978 on a 133-acre land surrounded by Micro Beach on the west side and Mt. Tapochao on the east side. The property includes a 30-acre protected wetland and mangrove forest.

The 5,204 names of American and Marianas people who fought in the war are inscribed on a memorial that was dedicated at the 50th anniversary of the Saipan invasion, when American forces wrested the CNMI from Japanese control.

Picnic sites, walkways, playgrounds have also been made available at the park.

"AMP has grown and has gone through a lot of changes over the years and we are happy to be telling the community and visitors about the rich history of Saipan and the Marianas.

"Our exhibit is a self-guided exhibit. …Parts of our exhibits are from different places, as some are reproductions, like our printed items that were used and available during wartime," Nevitt said.

Some of the items in the AMP museum are on loan from the CNMI Museum. "It varies depending on what it is. …After [Super Typhon] Soudelor [in 2015], our theater was destroyed so it was shut down for a while. …It has been fixed and our theater is open and we welcome the community to watch our park's films," she said.

The AMP theater is also available for the community to use for different events.

As part of National Park Week, the AMP will be showing movies of other national parks in the United States as it can be hard to go off island and go to these 417 national parks. The featured films are about national parks in Alaska, Ellis Island, California, Missouri, Alabama, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Washington, and Ohio.

Aside from managing the museum, theater and the park, AMP has different programs throughout the year that is done in partnership with the Pacific Historic Parks.

"…Pacific Historic Parks runs the bookstore in the museum and the money that comes from their sales helps fund education programs at the park," Nevitt said.

One of those programs is "Art in the Park," which is held from March to April. The park brings in artists to share their craft with the community. All the materials are available free of charge for people who sign up.

"We don't charge for any of our programs here," said Nevitt.

In the summer, the park has its Junior Ranger Camp and a youth program called "Soldier Skills."

There is also the "Every Kid in the Park" program during the school year, which the AMP holds in partnership with the Pacific Historic Parks. The program entails bringing all fourth graders to the park, using a grant from the National Park Foundation to fund the buses to bring the students to the AMP.

The Pacific Historic Parks is a non-profit organization that runs all the educational programs at the park and funds community events there.

"We create educational programs connected to what the Public School System and private schools are [teaching] in class, so we do field trips, 'Art in the Park,' Junior Ranger, or other educational and community programs," said Pacific History Parks education specialist Jovannalyn Mafnas Moses.

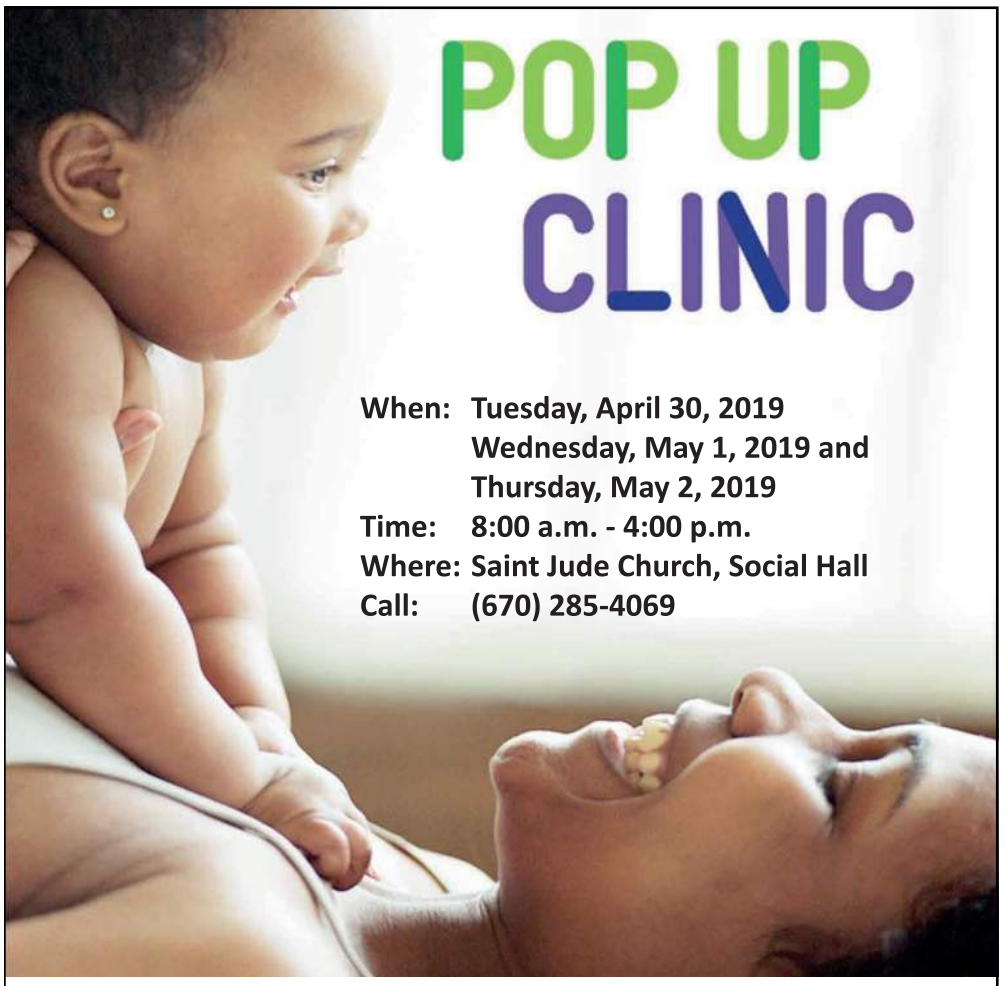
Nevitt said that they want the community to maximize what the AMP has to offer. "We invite everyone to come to the park as we really want people…using our recreational areas because that's part of the reason why we are here.

"We want a safe and inviting space for the community to use and, at the same time, we are here to fulfill our mission to tell the story of WW II and the CNMI's role in it," she added.

Nevitt describes her role at AMP as her "dream job," saying she has always wanted to work at the park.

"I grew up on Saipan. I grew up coming to the park and loving it. I always thought, 'Is there any cooler job than being a park ranger?' And here I am. I love history and passionate about conserving our natural environment and so this is a great place to be," she added.

AMP is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm. They welcome volunteers. For more information call (670)234-7207.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Friday, April 26, 2019
8:30am—10:30am
Location: CDA Board Room, 1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:
Michael Dotts, Dotts Law Firm

Michael Dotts has been an attorney in the CNMI for more than 25 years. Much of his career has been spent representing employers with employment issues. Michael started his career in San Francisco with a law firm that represented employers in union negotiations and before the NLRB. On Saipan he represented numerous employers in investigations and brought by the Department of Labor related to claims of unpaid overtime. He has also represented numerous employers in investigations and in Federal Court actions brought by the EEOC, and he has also defended employers sued for wrongful termination.

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Helicopter squad contains brush fire in southern Guam

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—The Guam-based "Island Knights" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 provided aerial firefighting for southern Guam, along the northeastern edge of Naval Magazine, when a brush fire quickly began to spread and threaten local homes of Santa Rita last April 21.

U.S. Navy Fire and Joint Regions Marianas notified HSC-25 that evening that the fire was out of control and HSC-25□s assistance was required.

The HSC-25 aerial firefighting was led by aircraft commander, Lt. Nicklaus Gfeller, and successfully contained the fire using 4,200 gallons of water.

"The maintenance duty section did a fantastic job of quickly modifying the aircraft configuration to support fire bucket operations," said Gfeller. "he flight crew quickly found our rhythm to effectively drop water on the fire to contain it."

The incident was the second firefighting request to HSC-25 in 2019 to date.

"Our sailors work diligently day in and day out to ensure our aircraft are capable of 24/7 support anywhere in the… Marianas," said HSC-25 commanding officer Cmdr. Frank Loforti. "Yesterday's aerial firefighting was one of the many examples of how rewarding their hard work can be. I could not be [prouder] of the Island Knight maintainers and flight crew this Easter evening."

HSC-25 provides a multi-mission rotary wing capability for units in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations and maintains a Guam-based 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation capability, directly supporting U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. ***(Amphibious Force 7th Fleet Public Affairs)***

Sailors assigned to the "Island Knight" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 pose for a photo after providing aerial firefighting for a brush fire that occurred in the Naval Magazine area of Santa Rita last April 22.
U.S. NAVY /PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS JORDAN CROUCH

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SSHS progress reports out today

Saipan Southern High School will be issuing its students' progress reports today, April 25, 2019 from 4pm to 5:30pm. Come by the school to pick up the progress reports in your child's classrooms. ***(PR)***

Community planting and cleanup at WSR school

In celebration of Environment Month and Earth Day, volunteers are invited to help plant trees and flowers at the Willim S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa this Saturday, April 27, from 8am to 10:30am.

There will also be a clean-up of litter on and around the school campus.

The event is hosted by Precinct 2 Reps. Christina Sablan and John Paul Sablan, in collaboration with WSR Elementary School, Division of Forestry, Northern Mariana Islands Cooperative Research and Educational Extension Services, and Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

For more information, contact the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829 or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664-8965. ***(PR)***

JKPL parking lot closed Friday, Saturday

In order to accommodate and prepare for the 2nd Annual Community Mobile Information Literacy Fair, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's parking lot will be closed this Friday, April 26, 2019, and Saturday, April 27, 2019.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Follow the library on Instagram @joetenkiyu, Pinterest @ Joeten Kiyu, and Snapchat @ JoetenKiyu.

The library's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays and holidays. ***(PR)***

SCC membership meeting on May 1

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's general membership meeting in May will be held on Wednesday, May 1, at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The speakers are acting Finance secretary David Atalig, who will speak about his vision and plans for the CNMI Department of Finance, and Northern Marianas Humanities Council program officer Farah Younis to speak about the council's upcoming initiatives.

The luncheon begins at 11:30pm with the meeting portion starting promptly at noon. Tickets are $25 for Chamber members/$35 for non-members. To RSVP six or more attendees, email Mercilynn Kaneshi Palec at administrator@saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the third floor of the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 315 in Susupe for more information. ***(PR)***

UOG forum today on sexual misconduct

The SW480 Family Violence class of the Social Work degree program at the University of Guam will be hosting a public forum today, April 25, about ending sexual misconduct on college campuses.

The free forum will take place from 6pm to 7:30pm, at the CLASS Lecture Hall of the University of Guam campus.

One in five women in college experience sexual assault, according to the Office on Women's Health under the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

The forum will bring the subject to light with real testimonies from former students who have had first-hand experiences with sexual assault and the presentation of data from a statistics expert on sexual misconduct from seven Micronesian campuses. Faculty who are actively involved in developing interventions to address campus sexual misconduct will also speak. ***(PR)***

JKPL book talk: Marie Castro

As part of National Library Month activities, join the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library tomorrow, April 26, 2019, from 5pm to 6pm in the Children's Library to hear a book talk by CNMI author Marie Castro.

Castro will be discussing the books *Without a Penny in My Pocket: Bittersweet Memories Before and After WWI* by Marie S.C. Castro and *Marie Castro: My Life and Amelia Earhart's Saipan Legacy* by Mike Campbell and Marie S.C. Castro, and talk to the community about the process behind writing her books. ***(PR)***

Calling Class of 1981 high school graduates

To all 1981 graduate(s) of Marianas High School, Dolphins 81, and off-island graduates in Guam or the U.S. mainland, there will be a class reunion meeting on April 25, 2019, starting at 6pm at Tech-NIC Computer Gaming, above Sherwin Williams across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road. ***(PR)***

USCIS to present naturalization information session in Guam in May

Officials from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will present a free information session to the public about citizenship and the naturalization process in Guam on May 14, from 1pm to 3:30pm, at the Hagatna branch of the Guam Public Library.

USCIS will provide information about eligibility for citizenship, how to apply online, the English and civics tests, application forms and fees and how to best interact with USCIS about individual cases. Officials will also discuss ways to avoid becoming a victim of immigration scams and provide agency updates. Free educational materials will be given out, while supplies last. ***(PR)***

Tax refunds mailed

HAGATNA, Guam—The Department of Revenue & Taxation and Department of Administration have mailed 308 tax refund checks totaling $748,730 for error-free returns filed on or before Dec. 31, 2018.

For inquiries, contact Dafne Shimizu, director, Department of Revenue & Taxation at (671) 635-1815/1816 or Edward Birn, Department of Administration, at (671) 475-1250. ***(PR)***

April is Autism Awareness Month

Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI, in partnership with the CNMI Public School System, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, and the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., will be hosting events to celebrate and create awareness on Autism throughout the month.

APRIL 9, 2019 AT 1:00 PM

Autism & CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Proclamation Signing at the Governor's Office

April 26, 2019 from 6pm – 10pm

Quiz Nite 8 at Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hibiscus Hall
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Ticket Price: $30.00

April 28, 2019 from 3pm-5pm

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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KIRK
I WASN'T CONCERNED WITH PLASTIC GARBAGE CLOGGING THE OCEANS UNTIL I REALIZED...
...WE CAN NOW WALK TO ENGLAND FROM HERE.

EDITORIAL

In the age of Amazon, could Sears rise again?

Years after Sears lost luster as a shopping destination, consumers of a certain age still get a faraway look in their eyes when they think about the company's storied brands: DieHard batteries, Kenmore appliances and Toughskins children's jeans, among them.

Nostalgia is a powerful emotion. (Remember the DieHard commercial about the car that sits for months on a frozen lake in International Falls, Minn., and then starts?) But nostalgia obviously doesn't pay the bills. That's the challenge facing investor Edward Lampert, who's run Sears for years but has failed to re-establish its relevance.

In October, Sears' parent corporation in Hoffman Estates filed for bankruptcy protection. The retailer seemed in danger of going out of business after more than a century as a Chicago born-and-bred icon (forgive us, more nostalgia). Yet Lampert still sees something in Sears. He hopes to restart the engine, and to do so he bought the company's assets, including stores and the DieHard and Kenmore brands, for $5.2 billion.

Lampert's plans include opening some smaller Sears stores and reinvesting in some of those great brand names. The company's looking to put the DieHard name on everything from lawn and garden products to camping gear, the Tribune's Lauren Zumbach reports. As Sears regroups, Lampert is the subject of a newly filed lawsuit by Sears Holdings Corp., the former parent company, which alleges he stripped the company of $2 billion in assets before bankruptcy.

Legal matters aside, Sears still must answer the question of why it should exist in a retail environment where it's often more convenient to buy something via smartphone and wait for delivery than drive to the mall. Sears, with its former catalog business and home delivery, was the Amazon of its day. But companies that dominate their industry are promised nothing over the long haul except that they'll be challenged by newcomers with new ideas and perhaps a leaner cost structure.

The rejoinder to that: Some companies that get knocked around by the competition do reinvent themselves. We're thinking of Best Buy, which at one point appeared left for dead alongside such other flagging brands as Circuit City and Radio Shack (both gone). Best Buy solved the riddle by cutting costs, matching Amazon's prices and improving customer service. Today the company is profitable and growing again. Local brands around the country, including Abt Electronics in Glenview, also have carved out successful niches.

How about Sears? Our affection for the brand only runs so deep. In the free-market system, someone's always looking to offer a better product or a better deal. That's great for consumers. Whether it's great for Sears depends on what Lampert does next.

(c)2019 *Chicago Tribune*

No, parents can't 'just relax' about college

By ANJA STADELMANN WRIGHT
LOS ANGELES TIMES

When the news of the college admissions scandal broke, I thought of one of my psychotherapy patients. She repeatedly brings up in our sessions that her father, a known writer, wrote her college essay and that she believes that's what got her admitted to an Ivy League school. The remarkable part of her story is not that she didn't write her own essay, but that "the cheating" (as she calls it) happened 40 years ago, yet it haunts her to this day.

In the wake of the recent arrests and plea deals, it may be easier to discern how parents do their children a disservice in "helping" them get into college. But when I take stock of all the anxious teens and parents I encounter at my kids' school and coming through my therapy office, I wonder if we're not all being done wrong by the admission process itself.

The mother of one teenager, for instance, came to session feeling guilty that she hadn't hired a tutor when her son asked for one in 9th grade. Worried about the cost, she felt at the time that he should first try to work through the tough material on his own—which he did. By the end of the school year he was back on track. But the temporary dip in her son's grade freshman year affected his GPA enough to make it less likely that he would be admitted to the most competitive colleges. "They tell you that kids learn the most from failure, but the system does not allow for that," the mother commented bitterly. "There is no box on the college application form where he can check that he had to figure it out by himself."

Another family decided to forgo a private admissions counselor, wanting their daughter to have a sense of ownership over her college choice. The mother now wonders if it was worth the fights and nagging that ensued, and feels the experience negatively affected her relationship with the daughter. Both parents fear that things fell through the cracks and that their daughter might have ended up at a better college if she'd had professional guidance.

I've also been asked to prescribe Adderall by young patients who are about to take the SATs. Prescribing is not within my scope of practice, I have to explain, and in any case, an assessment for learning disability is required. One teen patient became angry and resentful, arguing that "so many of my friends get time and a half" on their SAT or ACT exams because they have been diagnosed with ADHD, anxiety or learning differences. "I'm anxious too, except my parents missed the boat by not having me diagnosed in time."

Many parents have heard the whispers about doctors who, for a fee, will diagnose children with ADHD or anxiety disorder without even seeing them. True or not, the stories have a corrosive effect and everyone is harmed. Some children are deprived of the experience of mastering a test on their own, and others feel the system is so rigged that they lose motivation. The children who genuinely need extra time are viewed suspiciously. Most important, other children who need special accommodations might not get them because the system is overtaxed and has become geared toward parents who have the means to navigate it.

Parents in the midst of the college admission process are often counseled, "Don't worry. Your child will get in where he/she is meant to get in," or "There are many good colleges. Everyone gets in somewhere." There may well be truth to this advice. But by placing responsibility on parents to "just relax" a bit, we're letting a broken college admissions system perpetuate itself.

Blaming overzealous parents (or a few bribeable coaches) for the inequality in college admissions misses the point. Parents are warned that everything—grades, after-school activities, summer camps, internships, volunteer work, science fair awards—matters starting in 9th grade. This creates 3 { years of college admissions anxiety. No wonder stress levels for teens and parents have been rising steadily for decades now.

There is no single fix, but one small and feasible step might be to make time less of a factor in test-taking. The SAT and ACT currently favor the ability to work through a long list of problems at breakneck speed—but this skill is rarely useful or required in adulthood. Simply adding an hour to the SAT and ACT test periods would make the test less stressful for all students, reduce the advantages enjoyed by those with the resources to take multiple practice tests, and remove incentives for gaming the system or taking performance-enhancing drugs.

As a parent and a psychotherapist who has lived in the United States and Europe, I often feel envious of my European friends who cannot fathom the complexity and stress of the American college admission process. Yes, the United States is home to many of the best colleges and universities in the world, and we as a nation can justifiably be proud of that. But one does have to wonder whether the current emphasis on the single achievement of getting in comes at too high a cost to our collective mental health.

Anja Stadelmann Wright is a psychotherapist with a private practice in Los Angeles, and a mother of two teens going through the college admission process.

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The Blanche DuBois fantasy over the Mueller report

By JOHN KASS
Chicago Tribune

John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. *Readers may send him email at jskass@chicagotribune.com.*

For almost three years now, much of the American political media—what I've been calling the Democratic Media Complex—has been clinging to a fantasy about President Donald Trump and Russia.

You might call them bitter clingers.

They cling to the fantasy that Trump won the 2016 election only because he was the servant of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.

And they believed, really believed, as a matter of faith, that their saint, special counsel Robert Mueller, would clap Trump in irons for his sins, or at least drag him out of the White House, and their long nightmare would be over.

But when presented with the Mueller report, which showed there wasn't enough evidence for criminal charges against the president, what did they do?

They babbled and floated, stubbornly, willingly, deeper into the whirlpool, like Blanche DuBois.

For years now, Blanche has been insisting that Shep Huntleigh (Robert Mueller) would be coming any day, to save her from the barbarian Stanley Kowalski (Trump).

When the report was released, if you walked past a news screen, you would have heard them babbling. CNN had several panels of experts channeling Blanche DuBois, and none of them said anything about depending on the kindness of strangers.

Instead they damned Attorney General William Barr, a longtime friend of Mueller's, as a creature of evil.

Some of the more tribal residents of the left might want to condemn me for conservative thinking. But it's not about left or right. It's about reality. And the journalist Glenn Greenwald is not a conservative by any measure. He is a man of the left, a founder of The Intercept and no fan of Donald Trump.

The other day, Greenwald noted that years ago, journalists who supported the Bush administration's war on Iraq on false premises had reason to search their souls and spend time in self-reflection.

Some of us apologized, publicly, for groupthink, and vowed never to be herded again. I apologized, publicly and repeatedly.

"But here I don't see any of that," Greenwald told Tucker Carlson on Fox. "They've just put collusion and conspiracy and all those conspiracy theories they've spent the last three years endorsing, just flushed it down the toilet like they don't exist and seamlessly shifted to obstruction. And then conflating them to claim, essentially, that they were right all along. And that is really the alarming thing."

They're doubling down, moving quickly from the Trump collusion narrative. And since they can't sell that one, they'll sell the obstruction narrative instead.

But if there isn't enough evidence to charge a crime of conspiracy to collude with Russia, how do you make a credible case of obstruction for a crime that didn't happen?

No crime means that dog won't hunt.

Democrats like Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland and even Mr. Collusion himself, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, say there is no chance for impeachment now.

Everything else, then, is political noise.

Ever since Trump and his basket of deplorables defeated Hillary Clinton in 2016, Democrats and their journalistic handmaidens have been unwilling and unable to deal with it.

They worked together to undercut his presidency.

Is Trump a good man?

No, of course not. Anyone who talks about grabbing women by their genitals is not a good man, but that's irrelevant here.

What is relevant is the republic.

And if we bend the rules to subvert election outcomes—and if media groupthink prevents us from understanding this—the republic is in serious jeopardy.

America can withstand Trump as we withstood Obama. What we can't withstand is willfully shutting our eyes to how this started.

And what's relevant is what is not in the Mueller report: an explanation of the so-called Steele dossier, a political opposition research hit on Trump, funded in part by Hillary Clinton, that was provided to American intelligence and law enforcement, and formed the basis for the investigation.

Before the release of the Mueller report, I spoke to Tom Bevan, publisher of Real Clear Politics, on my podcast "The Chicago Way."

"One possibility is that Donald Trump and members of his campaign colluded with Russia to basically fix an American election and manipulate it and win it," Bevan said. "That's a huge, huge scandal worthy of investigation, worthy of a Pulitzer Prize."

But the other scenario?

"The top echelon of the U.S. government intelligence agencies conducting investigations on a political opponent of one party, and using the powers of government surveillance and overseas assets to try and trap this person, and basically undermine not only the election results itself but also his legitimacy," Bevan said.

"And then cover it up. That is also a huge, huge story worthy of any reporter's time, worthy of a Pulitzer Prize if it were true.

"So, which of those two stories has gotten the lion's share of coverage?"

The one that Blanche DuBois likes the best, the one that sings to her, the one that reinforces her fantasy.

The one that makes her feel like she's going home again, on the arm of Robert Mueller, and where she's safe from Stanley Kowalski.

Let's hope the media complex stops the "A Streetcar Named Desire" rewatch and tries another old film about an addiction to destructive fantasy.

"The Bridge on the River Kwai" is about a British colonel and prisoner of war (played by the late Sir Alec Guinness) who helps the Japanese build a railway through the jungle that will cost Allied lives.

But he escapes fantasy, enters reality and redeems himself, at the end, with this iconic line:

"What have I done?"

We can fix nation's racial wealth gap

By JOSH HOXIE
Tribune News Service

Josh Hoxie directs the program on taxation and opportunity at the Institute for Policy Studies and is a co-author of the report Ten Solutions to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide. *This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by* The Progressive *magazine, and distributed by the Tribune News Service.*

More than 50 years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King observed that most white people in the United States "believe that American society is essentially hospitable to fair play and to steady growth toward a middle-class utopia, embodying racial harmony."

"But unfortunately," he added, "this is a fantasy of self-deception and comfortable vanity."

This fantasy is on full display in the United States today. While race is increasingly discussed when it comes to immigration, police violence, or white nationalism, one of its most impactful legacies is seldom named: the racial wealth divide.

That divide is much bigger than most people suppose. It's also fixable—if we confront it directly.

Household wealth is the sum total of what you own minus what you owe. It's the economic buffer that prevents minor financial setbacks like an illness or job loss from becoming a full-blown calamity. It's the savings you can fall back on when you need it most.

The median black family today owns $3,600 in household wealth—just 2 percent of the median white family's $147,000. The median Latino family does only a little better, with assets worth $6,600—4 percent of the white median.

In other words, the median white family is 41 and 22 times wealthier, respectively, than the median black and Latino family. These figures come from a recent report I co-authored for the Institute for Policy Studies.

Wealth, and the opportunity required to generate wealth, is heavily skewed based on the color of your skin in the United States—a trend that's getting worse, not better, as time goes on.

This does not have to be the case. Solutions are close at hand that could prevent the next generation from experiencing the deep economic divide we see today. In a new report, released this month, my colleagues and I laid out what we call "Ten Solutions to Bridge the Racial Wealth Divide."

New programs in affordable housing, postal banking and expanding health care to a Medicare for all system would protect vulnerable Americans of all races, especially those who have less wealth to begin with. We call for restoring historically high tax rates on the ultra-wealthy, which have been slashed over the past four decades.

We also propose a Baby Bonds program—an endowed fund for all children born in the United States that they can access upon entering adulthood to fund their education or first home. This strikes at a key tenet of the modern racial wealth divide: the fact that white families can often hand down intergenerational wealth while non-whites cannot.

Finally, we call for a congressional committee on reparations, a proposal that's been in introduced in Congress every year since the 1980s.

These solutions are smart and effective, but they'll go nowhere without a groundswell of support. This support should come not just from altruistic people who want to do the right thing for others, but from those who recognize that things like affordable health care and access to low-cost banking services from the neighborhood post office would improve their own lives, too.

Inequality hurts everyone. As British social epidemiologists Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett point out in their book, The Inner Level, reducing economic inequality improves every indicator of happiness and well-being for all people, not just the poor.

This country has never reconciled its original sin of slavery, nor the multitude of racist public policies that went into effect in its wake. A serious, systemic, race-focused approach to addressing the deep economic divide is past due.

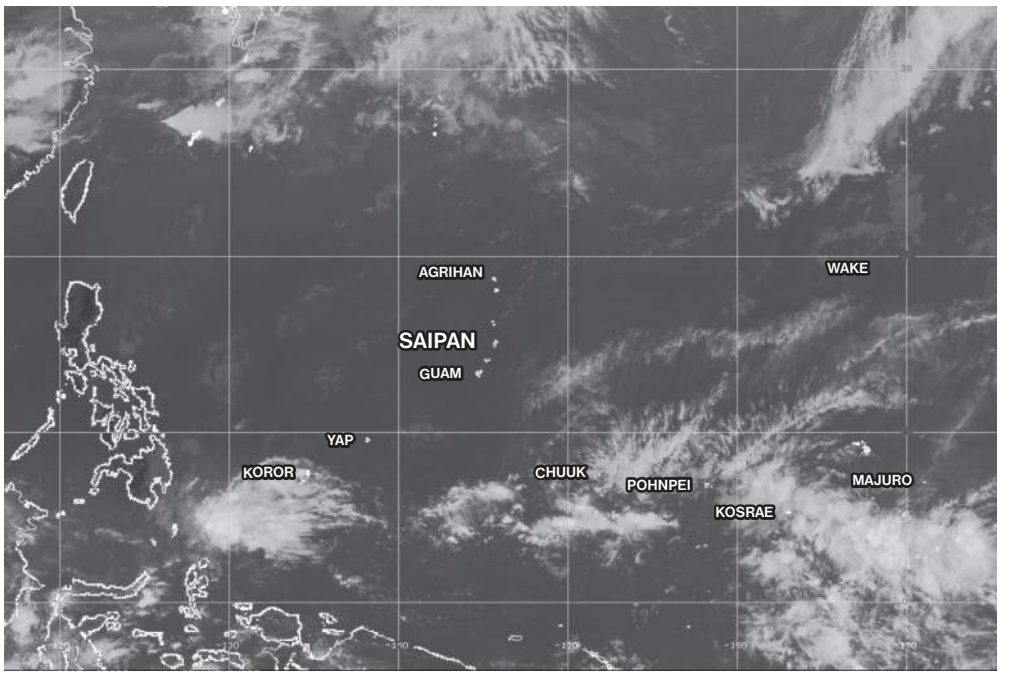
RUSSIAN THREAT!
BY JOE "WHEN BESTIES ATTACK!" FOURNIER
VLADIMIR PUTIN EXPLAINS
RUSSIA WARNS THE UNITED STATES NOT TO PLACE MISSILES IN EUROPE UNLESS IT WANTS A CUBAN MISSILE-STYLE CRISIS!
THIS WARNING SHOULD STAND AS DEFINITIVE PROOF THAT PRESIDENT TRUMP IS HIS OWN MAN, HIS OWN LEADER, AND NOT SOME PUPPET CONTROLLED BY ME!
ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
S'ALRIGHT?
S'ALRIGHT!
joe@joefournierstudios.com

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
89° / 76°	89° / 76°	89° / 78°	89° / 78°	89° / 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 3:48 AM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trade winds are expected through Friday. Combined seas of 5 to 6 feet will build to between 6 and 7 feet tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	87° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	70° / 46°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 71°
London	Showers	59° / 46°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	75° / 57°
Manila	Sunny	100° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	80° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	71° / 50°
Osaka	Rain	66° / 52°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 54°
Busan	Showers	57° / 46°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	84° / 59°
San Francisco	Sunny	64° / 51°
Seoul	Cloudy	61° / 43°
Tokyo	Rain	64° / 50°
Washington, DC	Showers	71° / 59°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:46 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
6:19 AM	LOW TIDE	1.21
10:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.61
6:21 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.01

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:38 AM	11:56 PM
Friday	-	11:29 AM	-
Saturday	12:44 AM	12:20 PM	-
Sunday	1:28 AM	1:09 PM	-
Monday	2:10 AM	1:58 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

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VIZIO 43" 2160P 4K ULTRA HD LED TV HOME THEATER

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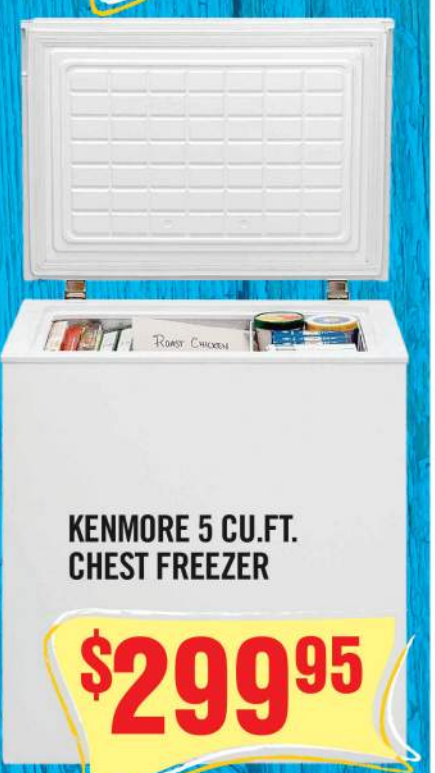

KENMORE 5 CU.FT. CHEST FREEZER

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MARCO - 2 DOOR WARDROBE WITH ALUMIMUM FRAME/MIRROR/LOCK (WD-3053M/L-WG)

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HOOVER STEAMSCRUB PRO STEAM MOP

$59.95

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DAHDOUL-3PC PRINTED QUILT BEDSPREAD KING SIZE
$19.95

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$59.95

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$15.95

$119.95
MARCO - 2 DOOR WARDROBE WITH ALUMINUM FRAME & LOCK (WD-3858-LO)

SILO 32" 720P LED TV
$169.95

POSITIVE TYPOGRAPHY WOOD PLAQUE
$10.95

$35.95
ELICO - BEACH DAY 41"*29"

HONG MA 6FT FOLD-IN-HALF BENCH
$29.95

AGT PRINTED 3PC BEACH LUGGAGE SET 28"24"20"
$179.95

DAHDOUL-3PC SHAGGY DADDY BATH SET
$10.95

$49.95
DAHDOUL-EVERGREEN 5X8 ARTIFICIAL GRASS RUG

$21.95
MARCO - KIDDY STUDY TABLE WITH CHILDREN PLASTC CHAIR

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ESSENTIAL HOME 14PC COOKWARE SET
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4SGM - FUCSHIA/BLUE PAPER PLATE 8CT 9"

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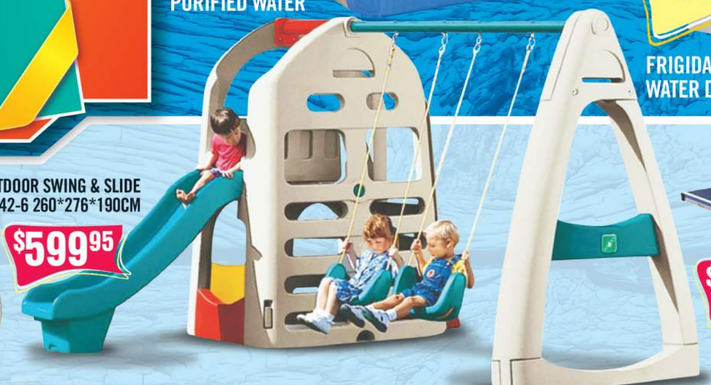
$159.95

LIFE N SOUL BE501 BLUETOOTH HEADPHONES
$25.95

SOL-EFFECT #5 SOCCER BALL
$8.95



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$219.95
JOOLA TRYO TABLE TENNIS 4PC TABLE

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Join the Edible Book Contest at Saipan public library

Do you like to bake or cook? The Edible Book Contest is perfect for you!

Join the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9am to 2pm to participate in this fun, delicious contest!

Contest is free and open to all cardholders with cleared library cards (ages 6 and up).

Last day to register is April 26 at 6pm.

Interested participants should come up with an edible creation that is related to reading and/or books. Examples include, but are not limited to, book titles, authors, and characters.

For example, create a series of cupcakes that resemble *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* or make Dr. Seuss' iconic *Green Eggs and Ham*. The options are endless!

Check out the library's Pinterest page—@Joeten Kiyu—for more inspirations.

Be sure to bring the book you are recreating to display, or ask a JKPL librarian to help you find it in the library.

Note that the creations will be without refrigeration (but in air-conditioning) for an extended period of time, so creations should not include very perishable ingredients, such as dairy products or ice cream.

Participants should bring their creations to the library on Saturday, April 27, 2019, from 9am to 10am.

From 10am to 12pm, the community is invited to vote for their favorite entry!

After the winners are announced, the community will be invited to taste-test the creations.

All entries must be cleared away by 3pm on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Any entries left after that time will be discarded.

We hope you will join us! Let's celebrate a love of reading and let's get baking! ***(PR)***

T-Galleria donates $3K for Hyatt golf tourney

As a platinum sponsor for the 23rd Charity Golf Classic, T-Galleria has donated $3,000 cash and in-kind items to the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The donation will aid this year's beneficiaries: the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Make-A-Wish grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

500 Sails seeks to revive traditional Chamorro and Carolinian *proa* (canoe) construction and sailing;

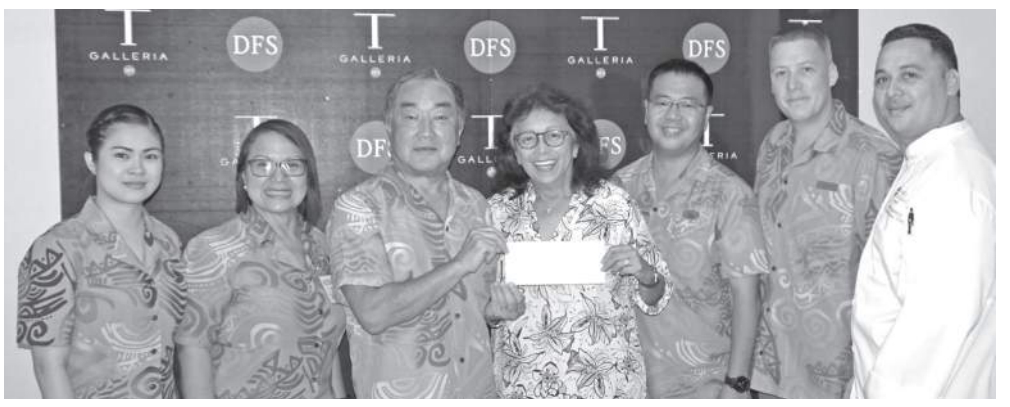
NMI Rollers Basketball Association promotes the sport of basketball among the CNMI youth.

Isla Montessori School seeks to blur the boundaries between the community and institutional schooling.

4H Marianas promotes agriculture, healthy living, environmental and outdoor learning, STEM, indigenous culture, and creative arts learning within the youth of the CNMI.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will host its 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's west course on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Registration for the sold-out event opens at 6:30am and shotgun start is at 7:30am. For more information contact 1 (670) 234-1234 Ext. 26.

"On behalf of Hyatt Regency Saipan, we would like to express our appreciation to T-Galleria's generous donation in contributing to make it possible to deliver our charity golf classic's mission in impacting our community and enhancing the lives of others. Our goal is for every volunteer to have fun and memorable experience while giving back to the community," said Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick K. Nishikawa. ***(PR)***



From left, Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Rosalyn Quintanilla, Hyatt Regency Saipan rooms director; Nick Nishikawa, Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager; Marian Aldan-Pierce, T Galleria Saipan president; Seiji Shindo, Hyatt's assistant director of Food & Beverage; Ty Pauling Hyatt's director of Food & Beverage; and Zenn Tomokane, executive sous chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance donates $1K cash and $10K hole-in-one prize to Hyatt

From left, Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan Food & Beverage director; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.'s Trenton Lillemon, Samantha Sikayun, Jacqueline Teregeyo, Jane Madarang, and Jessica Sablan, and Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacifica Insurance Underwriter, Inc. had presented Hyatt Regency Saipan a $1,000 cash and a $10,000 hole-in-one prize for the upcoming 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic.

The donation from Pacifica Insurance will aid this year's beneficiaries: the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

Shirley Sablan, Pacifica Insurance Underwriter president and chief operations officer said, "We appreciate all that Hyatt Regency Saipan has done for our community throughout the years. It is only right that we continue to support their charitable golf tournaments. Encouraging all golfers to tee-off with our friends from the Hyatt for a good cause."

In turn, Rosalyn Quintanilla, rooms director at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, said, "Pacifica Insurance Underwriters has been a great partner of Hyatt Regency Saipan and sponsor of the Charity Golf Classic. The community's growth and positive advancements are a direct result of the local businesses' generous and humble partnerships and we are grateful for their continued support."

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters is an insurance broker agency that was created in the early '70s. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-018
Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Arctic Circle Air Company

ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

to be held at PIC Hotel (2nd Floor Seaside Grill)
Date: May 4, 2019 at 12:30 pm
For further information call (670) 288-8877

Business

AS SANCTIONS BITE ECONOMY

North Korea looks to Russia

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Two months after he failed to win a badly needed easing of sanctions from President Donald Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is traveling to Russia in a possible attempt to win its help as the U.S.-led trade sanctions hurt his country's already-struggling economy.

There are no signs of a financial or humanitarian crisis in North Korea. But some observers say the sanctions, toughened over the past several years, are gradually drying up Kim's foreign currency reserves and he is desperate to find ways to bring in hard currency. His propaganda service is already saying that North Koreans can survive with only "water and air."

Russia, along with China, has called for the easing of the sanctions, though both are members of the U.N. Security Council, which has approved a total of 11 rounds of sanctions on North Korea since 2006. Some experts say Kim may ask Russian President Vladimir Putin in a meeting set to take place in Vladivostok on Thursday to voice strong opposition to the sanctions, enforce them less stringently and send humanitarian food aid to North Korea.

It's still unclear how much assistance Kim could get from Putin. Along with China, Russia isn't likely to want to openly evade the sanctions and face diplomatic friction with the United States. More than 90% of North Korea's foreign trade has gone through China, with which it shares a long, porous land border.

Analyst Go Myong-Hyun of the Seoul-based Asan Institute for Policy Studies said Kim's Russia trip, the first by a North Korean leader since 2011, may have been planned long before the February breakdown of the second summit between Kim and Trump in Vietnam. Go said North Korea and Russia had wanted to discuss economic cooperation if the summit had resulted in an easing of sanctions.

What will still likely be on the agenda is a request by Kim for food aid. In February, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, Kim Song, issued an unusual appeal for "urgent" food assistance. North Korean officials blamed the shortage on bad weather and the sanctions.

Analyst Cho Bong-hyun of Seoul's IBK Economic Research Institute said North Korea needs more than 1 million tons of food aid, so it would want Russia to provide hundreds of thousands of tons of corn, flour and other foodstuff. Russia could send North Korea food, but mostly in a secret manner, Cho said.

Kim will also likely raise the issue of thousands of North Korean workers in Russia, who must return home along with other overseas North Korean workers worldwide by the end of this year under the U.N. sanctions.

"There is a high possibility that Kim will ask Putin to be flexible on the issue as it's related to the inflow of dollars," said analyst Shin Beomchul of the Asan institute. He said North Korea may seek to persuade Russia to overlook North Korean visitors with short-term non-employment visas engaging in illegal work.

In May last year, South Korea's Unification Ministry said North Korea sends an estimated 50,000 workers aboard, mostly to China and Russia. Most work at factories, construction sites, lumber camps and restaurants. They often toil in tough working conditions and large portions of their salaries are taken by North Korea's government, according to activists and defectors.

After Kim failed to get sanctions relief from Trump in Vietnam, he called for national unity under the banner of self-reliance to surmount the sanctions. His state media called self-reliance "the treasured sword," a term previously used to refer to his nuclear weapons.

Oil prices climb in wake of Iranian oil sanctions decision

NEW YORK (AP)—Global oil prices are rising in the wake of President Donald Trump's decision to impose sanctions on nations that import Iranian oil and could eventually climb to levels that would impact American consumers.

Analysts said Tuesday that by taking Iranian crude off the market, the price of Brent crude oil—which is traded internationally—could rise to $80 per barrel or higher, depending on what happens in other countries where supply is at risk.

"That would certainly be felt by U.S. consumers, especially going into the driving season over the summer," said Paul Sheldon, chief geopolitical adviser at S&P Global Platts Analytics.

International Brent oil rose 47 cents to $74.51 Tuesday while U.S. West Texas Intermediate rose 75 cents to $66.30.

The U.S. announced the sanctions in November but some countries got temporary waivers that allowed them to import Iranian oil. The U.S. now says those waivers, which primarily impact China, India, Japan, South Korea and Turkey, will expire May 2.

Prices haven't been this high since late October.

Pavel Molchanov, energy analyst at Raymond James, said that the oil market was under-supplied even before the decision to end the waivers. Now that the waivers are being withdrawn, "we think it will be even more under-supplied than before," he said.

The price of Brent crude oil could reach a high of $100 a barrel in 2020, which could have a more meaningful impact on the U.S. economy, Molchanov said.

But even before then, countries with weaker economies and currencies and little to no oil supply of their own such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sub-Saharan African countries will feel the pain of rising prices, he added.

Raymond James had predicted a global undersupply of 740,000 barrels per day in 2019, and an additional undersupply of 460,000 barrels per day in 2020 prior to Monday's announcement. Ending the sanction waivers contributes to the undersupply by another 300,000 barrels a day, Molchanov said.

President Donald Trump made the decision as part of the administration's "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran that aims to eliminate all of its revenue from oil exports that the U.S. says funds destabilizing activity throughout the Middle East and beyond.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Monday the U.S. is counting on ally Saudi Arabia and other producers to ensure sufficient supply, along with increased U.S. production.

Analysts expect Saudi Arabia to move cautiously to fill in the gaps because if the country moves too quickly to boost supply that could depress the price.

Trump announced sanctions last year, but the waivers wrong-footed key oil producing countries in the OPEC cartel after they had increased supply in expectation of lower Iranian exports.

Nation

IN RAMBLING NOTE TO JUDGE

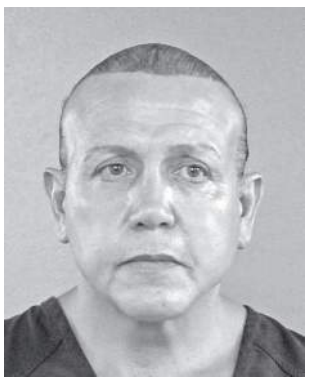
Pipe bomb mailer blames steroids

NEW YORK (AP)—A Florida man who mailed crudely made pipe bombs to prominent critics of President Donald Trump said he abused steroids for over 40 years, an issue his lawyers say they'll cite at sentencing.

Cesar Sayoc made the assertion in lengthy and rambling letters to a federal judge that were posted in his court case file Tuesday.

Sayoc, 57, pleaded guilty to explosives-related charges in March and faces a mandatory 10-year prison term and up to life in prison when he's sentenced Aug. 5. His lawyers told the judge in a different letter that a psychiatrist with specialized knowledge of the effects steroids can have on mental health will compose a report on Sayoc's extensive steroid use prior to that sentencing date.

He said he never intended to injure anyone when he mailed 16 rudimentary bombs to CNN offices and numerous Democrats, including former presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, former President Barack Obama, former Vice President Joe Biden, members of Congress and actor Robert De Niro.



AP

This Aug. 30, 2015, file photo released by the Broward County Sheriff's Office shows Cesar Sayoc in Miami.

The bombs were mailed to addresses in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, California, Atlanta and Washington, D.C., and began turning up over a five-day stretch weeks before the 2018 midterm elections.

No bombs exploded, which Sayoc said was by design, describing the devices as little more than fireworks. Prosecutors plan to submit a detailed report on the explosives prior to sentencing.

In his letters, Sayoc told U.S. District Judge Jed S. Rakoff that he had abused steroids for more than four decades and was using 274 different supplements and vitamins along with "heavy amounts of steroids" before his arrest.

He wrote that before he mailed explosives, his idea "first was how to tone down the liberal left violence platform." He wrote that he believed prominent Democrats were encouraging violence, saying he had been attacked personally—including as he returned to his hotel after attending Trump's inauguration.

Sayoc also asserted "leftist leadership" had encouraged followers to commit violence that caused $1,800 worth of damage to his van, including slashed tires, sliced fuel lines, broken windows and doors and damage to his battery that a mechanic told him could have caused it to explode.

Sayoc has been held without bail since his arrest in late October outside a South Florida auto parts store. He had been living in his van, which was plastered with Trump stickers and images of crosshairs superimposed over the faces of Trump opponents.

Since being imprisoned, Sayoc said, he has heard voices and suffered various psychological effects, including depression, high anxiety, vertigo and loneliness.

US judge in Oregon to block new Trump abortion policy

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—A U.S. judge in Oregon said Tuesday he intends to at least partially block a rule change by President Donald Trump's administration that could cut off federal funding for providers who refer patients for an abortion, though the scope of his decision remains to be seen.

U.S. District Judge Michael McShane made the comments after more than three hours of arguments in a lawsuit brought by 20 states and the District of Columbia, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported . The states say the rule change, due to take effect May 3, is a transparent attack on Planned Parenthood and a violation of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits "unreasonable barriers to the ability of individuals to obtain appropriate medical care."

"At the heart of these rules is an arrogant assumption that the government is better suited to direct women's health care than their providers," Oregon Public Broadcasting quoted the judge as saying.

McShane said he needs more time to decide whether he will issue a national injunction or a more limited one blocking the policy from taking effect. The judge said he's reluctant to set national health care policy and would describe the scope of his injunction in a written opinion soon.

"We will need to see what the final ruling says," Oregon Justice Department spokeswoman Kristina Edmunson said in an email. "We are pleased with the decision."

Under the new policy, health care providers that receive federal funding would be barred from referring patients for an abortion. Programs that receive the money would also have to be in a separate physical space from facilities where abortion is performed.

The rule change announced early this year concerns Title X, a family planning program created in 1970 which serves roughly 4 million low-income Americans every year. Clinics that receive money under Title X provide a wide array of services, including birth control and screening for diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases and cancer.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure, but federal laws prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to pay for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the woman. Religious conservatives and abortion opponents have long complained that Title X has been used to indirectly subsidize abortion providers.

"Title X grant funds are a true safety net for low income individuals and those who would not be able to access care, due to a lack of insurance or other barriers," Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum told the judge. "Put simply, this is an attempt to politicize what has been a successful, non-political public health program for 50 years."

U.S. Justice Department lawyer Andrew M. Bernie said there was nothing in the administrative record to suggest the change was politically motivated.

But the judge was not swayed. McShane suggested it would be "insane" for a man to go to his doctor seeking a vasectomy, only to be referred to a fertility clinic.

Asia

DAY AFTER DEADLY TEMBLOR

Powerful quake hits PH

PORAC, Philippines (AP)—A new powerful earthquake hit the central Philippines on Tuesday, a day after a magnitude 6.1 quake rattled the country's north and left at least 16 people dead, including in a collapsed supermarket, where rescuers scrambled to find survivors.

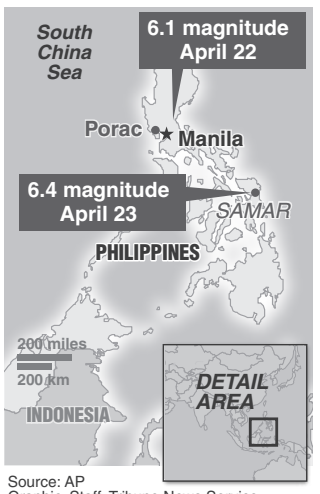
The U.S. Geological Survey put the magnitude of Tuesday's quake at 6.4, while the local seismology agency said it was 6.5. The quake was centered near San Julian town in Eastern Samar province and prompted residents to dash out of houses and office workers to scamper to safety.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or major damage from the new quake.

Classes and office work were suspended in San Julian, where cracks on roads and small buildings and a church were reported. Power was deliberately cut as a precaution in the quake's aftermath, officials said.

Meanwhile, rescuers worked overnight to recover bodies in the rubble of a supermarket that crashed down in Monday's quake, which damaged other buildings and an airport in the northern Philippines.

The bodies of five victims were pulled from Chuzon Supermarket and seven other villagers died due to collapsed house walls in hard-hit Porac town in Pampanga province, north of Manila, said Ricardo Jalad, who heads the government's disaster-response agency.



Source: AP
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

An Associated Press photographer saw seven people, including at least one dead, being pulled out by rescuers from the pile of concrete, twisted metal and wood overnight. Red Cross volunteers, army troops, police and villagers used four cranes, crow bars and sniffer dogs to look for the missing, some of whom were still yelling for help Monday night.

Authorities inserted a large orange tube into the rubble to blow in oxygen in the hope of helping people still pinned there to breathe. On Tuesday morning, rescuers pulled out a man alive, sparking cheers and applause.

"We're all very happy, many clapped their hands in relief because we're still finding survivors after several hours," Porac Councilor Maynard Lapid said by phone from the scene, adding that another victim was expected to be pulled out alive soon.

Jalad said at least 15 people died in Pampanga province, including those who perished in Porac town. The quake damaged houses, roads, bridges, Roman Catholic churches and an international airport terminal at Clark Freeport, a former American air base, in Pampanga. A state of calamity was declared in Porac to allow contingency funds to be released faster.

A child died in a landslide in nearby Zambales province, officials said.

At least 14 people remained missing in the rice-growing agricultural region, most of them in the rubble of the collapsed supermarket in Porac, while 81 others were injured, according to the government's disaster-response agency.

Death toll rises to 359 in Sri Lanka bombings, more arrested

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The death toll from the Easter suicide bombings in Sri Lanka rose to 359 and more suspects have been arrested, police said Wednesday.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility and released images that purported to show the seven bombers who blew themselves up at three churches and three hotels Sunday in the worst violence this South Asian island nation has seen since its civil war ended a decade ago.

The government has said the attacks were carried out by Islamic fundamentalists in apparent retaliation for the New Zealand mosque massacre last month but has said the seven bombers were all Sri Lankan. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said investigators were still working to determine the extent of the bombers' foreign links.

Police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara said Wednesday morning that 18 suspects were arrested overnight, raising the total detained to 58. The prime minister had warned on Tuesday that several suspects armed with explosives were still at large.

The Islamic State group has lost all the territory it once held in Iraq and Syria and has made a series of unsupported claims of responsibility around the world.

Sri Lankan authorities have blamed a local extremist group, National Towheed Jamaar, whose leader, alternately known as Mohammed Zahran or Zahran Hashmi, became known to Muslim leaders three years ago for his incendiary speeches online.

The IS group's Aamaq news agency released an image purported to show the leader of the attackers, standing amid seven others whose faces are covered. The group did not provide any other evidence for its claim, and the identities of those depicted in the image were not independently verified.

Meanwhile, in an address to Parliament, Ruwan Wijewardene, the state minister of defense, said "weakness" within Sri Lanka's security apparatus led to the failure to prevent the nine bombings.

"By now it has been established that the intelligence units were aware of this attack and a group of responsible people were informed about the impending attack," Wijewardene said. "However, this information has been circulated among only a few officials."

In a live address to the nation late Tuesday, Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena said he also was kept in the dark on the intelligence about the planned attacks and vowed to "take stern action" against the officials who failed to share the information. He also pledged "a complete restructuring" of the security forces.

Wijewardene said the government had evidence that the bombings were carried out "by an Islamic fundamentalist group" in retaliation for the March 15 mosque shootings in Christchurch, New Zealand, that killed 50 people, although he did not disclose what the evidence was.

The office of New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern issued a statement responding to the Christchurch claim that described Sri Lanka's investigation as "in its early stages."

World

Saudi Arabia beheads 37 for terrorism crimes; most Shiites

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Saudi Arabia on Tuesday beheaded 37 Saudi citizens, most of them minority Shiites, in a mass execution across the country for alleged terrorism-related crimes. It also publicly pinned the executed body and severed head of a convicted Sunni extremist to a pole as a warning to others.

The executions were likely to stoke further regional and sectarian tensions between rivals Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Saudi dissident Ali Al-Ahmed, who runs the Gulf Institute in Washington, identified 34 of those executed as Shiites based on the names announced by the Interior Ministry.

"This is the largest mass execution of Shiites in the kingdom's history," he said.

Amnesty International also confirmed the majority of those executed were Shiite men. The rights group said they were convicted "after sham trials" that relied on confessions extracted through torture.

It marked the largest number of executions in a single day in Saudi Arabia since Jan. 2, 2016, when the kingdom executed 47 people for terrorism-related crimes in what was the largest mass execution carried out by Saudi authorities since 1980.

Among those executed three years ago were four Shiites, including prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr, whose death sparked protests from Pakistan to Iran and the ransacking of the Saudi Embassy in Tehran. Saudi-Iran ties have not recovered and the embassy remains shuttered.

King Salman ratified by royal decree Tuesday's mass execution and that of 2016. The king, who has empowered his son Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, has asserted a bolder and more decisive leadership style than previous monarchs since ascending to the throne in 2015.

The kingdom and its Sunni-led Arab allies have also been emboldened by U.S. President Donald Trump's unwavering dedication to pressuring Iran's Shiite clerical leadership, which includes his decision to pull out of a nuclear agreement with Iran and reimpose punishing sanctions to cripple its economy.

Al-Ahmed described Tuesday's executions as a politically motivated message to Iran.

"This is political," he said. "They didn't have to execute these people, but it's important for them to ride the American anti-Iranian wave."

The Interior Ministry's statement said those executed had adopted extremist ideologies and formed terrorist cells with the aim of spreading chaos and provoking sectarian strife. It said the individuals had been found guilty according to the law and ordered executed by the Specialized Criminal Court in Riyadh, which specializes in terrorism trials, and the country's high court.

The individuals were found guilty of attacking security installations with explosives, killing a number of security officers and cooperating with enemy organizations against the interests of the country, the Interior Ministry said.

The statement was carried across state-run media, including the Saudi news channel al-Ekhbariya. The statement read on the state-run news channel opened with a verse from the Quran that condemns attacks that aim to create strife and disharmony and warns of great punishment for those who carry out such attacks.

Migrants fearful after hundreds arrested in Mexico raid

TONALA, Mexico (AP)—Central American migrants traveling through southern Mexico toward the U.S. on Tuesday fearfully recalled their frantic escape from police the previous day, scuttling under barbed wire fences into pastures and then spending the night in the woods after hundreds were detained in a raid.

In the Chiapas state town of Tonala, migrants flocked to one of the few places they felt they could be safe—the local Roman Catholic church—only to start with fear at the sound of a passing ambulance's siren.

"There are people still lost up in the woods. The woods are very dangerous," said Arturo Hernández, a sinewy 59-year-old farmer from Comayagua, Honduras, who fled through the woods with his grandson. "They waited until we were resting and fell upon us, grabbing children and women."

Mexican immigration authorities said 371 people were detained Monday in what was the largest single raid so far on a migrant caravan since the groups started moving through the country last year.

The once large caravan of about 3,000 people was essentially broken up by the raid, as migrants fled into the hills, took refuge at shelters and churches or hopped passing freight trains. A brave few groups straggled along the highways, but with dozens of police and immigration checkpoints, they were bound to be caught.

Journalists from The Associated Press saw police target isolated groups at the tail end of the caravan near Pijijiapan Monday, wrestling migrants into police vehicles for transport and presumably deportation as children wailed.

Now terrified of walking exposed on the highways, some turned in desperation to a tactic that used to be a popular way north, clambering aboard a passing freight train bound for the neighboring state of Tabasco. It's been years since migrants hopped trains in large numbers.

Javier Núñez, a 25-year-old Honduran, said he and his family walked through the hills, along a river and by some train tracks after Monday's raid before venturing into the town of Pijijiapan to find something to eat. But agents appeared again Monday night and detained his wife and son, who he said were taken to an immigration facility in Tapachula for deportation processing.

"They were hunting us," Núñez said. As he sees it, the only thing to do is go on alone, see how far he can make it. "Now we are afraid of everyone who looks at us or approaches."

Asked about the detentions at a Tuesday morning news conference, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador acknowledged that the government is not letting migrants simply go wherever they please. He denied taking a hard line, saying controls are for migrants' security because human traffickers are allegedly infiltrated among the caravans.

Environment

Stanford study explains how climate change widens gap between haves and have-nots

By LISA M. KRIEGER
THE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Climate change is widening the world's gap between the haves and have-nots, worsening economic inequality between rich and poor countries, according to a new analysis by Stanford scientists.

The difference between the economic output of the world's cool wealthy nations and hot struggling nations is 25 percent larger today than it would have been without global warming, according to researchers Noah Diffenbaugh and Marshall Burke.

"Our results show that most of the poorest countries on Earth are considerably poorer than they would have been without global warming," said climate scientist Diffenbaugh. "At the same time, the majority of rich countries are richer than they would have been."

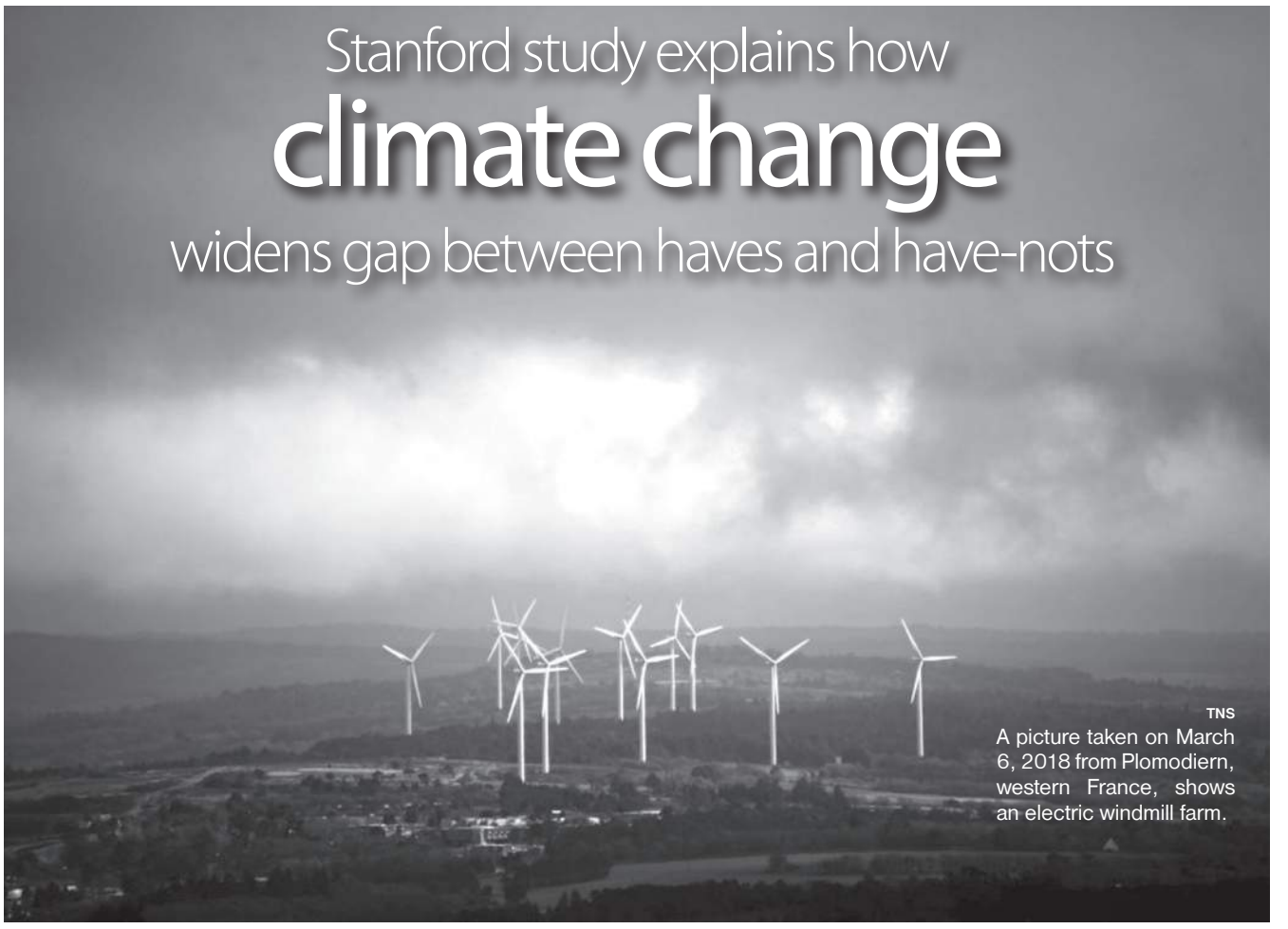
Much of the debate over climate change focuses on future risks of flooding and other disasters. But this analysis, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, shows the price that many countries have already paid.

Previous work found that during warm years, northern nations like Norway, Sweden and Iceland get an economic boost, while tropical and subtropical nations like India, Nigeria and Brazil suffer from slowed productivity.

The new study takes a much broader and longer look at the impact of climate change. Although economic inequality between countries has decreased in recent decades, the gap would have narrowed faster without the problem, caused by growing concentrations of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere.

For instance, India's GDP — the aggregate value of the economy's goods and services – is about 30 percent lower today than it would have been if there hadn't been global warming, the researchers found. It's 29 percent lower in Nigeria and 25 percent lower in Brazil.

Norway's GDP is 34 percent higher than in a world without climate change. It's 32 percent higher in Canada and 9.5 percent higher in Great Britain.



TNS
A picture taken on March 6, 2018 from Plomodiern, western France, shows an electric windmill farm.

Agriculture explains much of the difference. In cool regions, warming lengthens the growing season and allows a greater diversity of crop species. In warm regions, heat reduces yield of commodity crops like corn, soybeans and wheat.

But there are other contributors. Cool nations need to spend less money on energy to stay warm, while warm nations spend more money to stay cool.

"Labor productivity declines when temperatures are high," said Diffenbaugh. "There's a decline in cognitive performance, as proven by student performance on standardized tests. There's greater interpersonal conflict."

The research combines two approaches: A statistical analysis of the impact of temperature fluctuations on economic growth and 20 climate models created by research centers around the world and used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which advises the world's governments under the auspices of the United Nations.

The team calculated what each country's economic output might have been had temperatures not warmed.

For any particular nation, the annual impact is small, said Diffenbaugh.

"But it is like a retirement account," he said. "Small differences in what's contributed 30, 40 or 50 years ago compounds, and creates a big difference in what is available when you retire."

While the biggest emitters enjoy on average about 10 percent higher per capita GDP today than they would have in a world without warming, the lowest emitters have been dragged down by about 25 percent.

Such a drag "is on par with the decline in economic output seen in the U.S. during the Great Depression," said Burke, Stanford assistant professor of Earth system science.

"It's a huge loss compared to where these countries would have been otherwise," he said.

The new plan for destroying invasive pythons

By KIMBERLY MILLER
THE PALM BEACH POST

PALM BEACH, Fla.—Male pythons surgically implanted with inch-long radio transmitters that are then tracked by plane every two weeks. The hope is the male will lead to a female.

Pythons have been breeding and eating their way through the Everglades for two decades with a haphazard strike force in pursuit — a multitude tracking by plane, with dogs, on foot, carrying shotguns, laying traps and earning bounties.

Yet the invasive snake advances, erasing furry Florida natives from Everglades National Park, challenging the American alligator, and eyeing wading bird rookeries.

This month, a group of federal, state and nonprofit officials gathered in Fort Lauderdale to launch an "Interagency Python Management Plan."

It's hoped the blueprint for python control, which has been talked about since at least 2016, will increase agency coordination, share successes and expand mitigation to all of South Florida and its myriad landowners.

"I wish this had happened a long time ago, but it is finally taking place," said Art Roybal, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service senior biologist, who began his python fight more than a decade ago when a snake ate an endangered Key Largo woodrat. "We knew pythons were going to be an issue. I call them all-terrain eating machines."

Led by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the python management planning group will meet four times a year with the expectation that a plan will be drafted in a year or two.

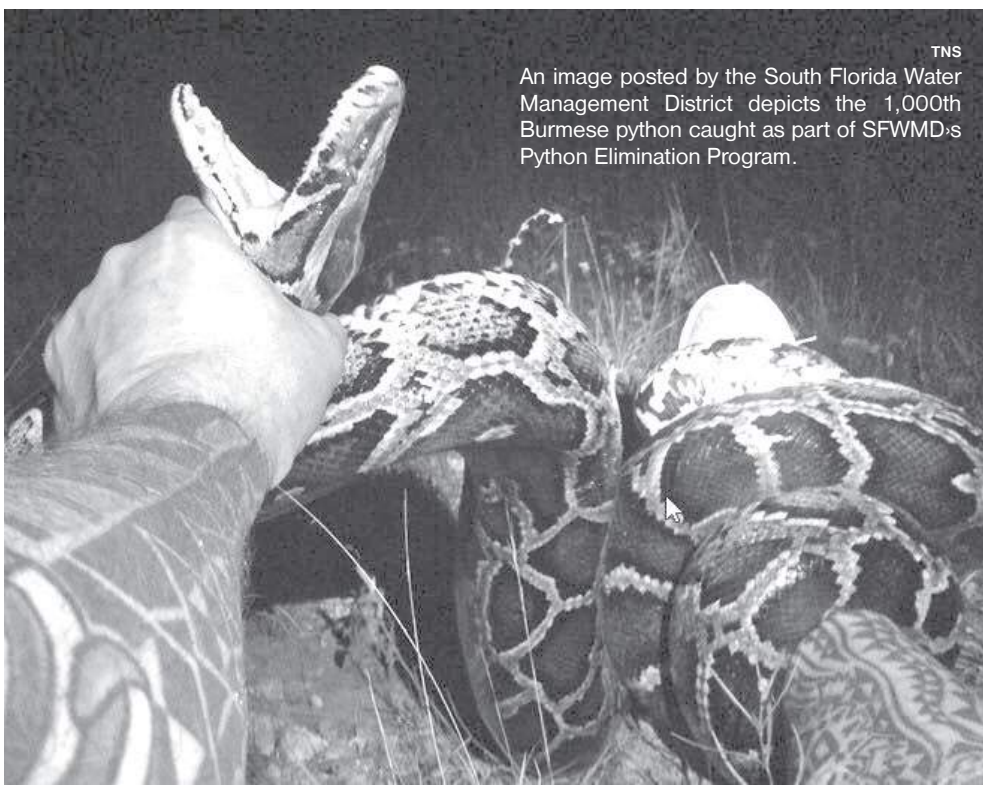
While invasive lionfish, melaleuca and even a damaging climbing yam called the air potato have management plans, the python has so far escaped the extra scrutiny that outlines the species history, ecological and economic impacts, range, methods of control and how different agencies will work together.

Kathy Worley, director of science at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, said connecting land owners — private and public — is also key in trying to control the python spread.

"Pythons don't know boundaries and we can't either," Worley said. "Everyone has their little pieces of the pie. This plan will remove barriers and give us flexibility in management options too."

The conservancy surgically implants male pythons with inch-long radio transmitters that are then tracked by plane every two weeks. The hope is the male will lead to a female. When a male is found, researchers mark its position and go in.

"We use canoes, boats, we go over land, we hack our way in," Worley said. "We are after the female. We take out the males too, except for our transmitter guy."



TNS
An image posted by the South Florida Water Management District depicts the 1,000th Burmese python caught as part of SFWMD's Python Elimination Program.

Burmese pythons were first reported as established in Everglades National Park in 2000, according to research reported by the University of Florida.

Native to Asia, the Burmese python is considered one of the largest snakes in the world. FWC's website says it was likely introduced into the Everglades by accident or intentional releases by pet owners. While not venomous, "the giant constrictors have thrived, assuming a top position on the food web."

But it wasn't until March 2012 that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed them as an injurious species, prohibiting importation and shipment. Between 1996 and 2006 the USFWS estimates 99,000 Burmese python were imported to the U.S.

Today, there is no good estimate of how many pythons live wild in South Florida, but estimates are in the tens of thousands.

Gov. Ron DeSantis brought the python problem to the attention of the Trump administration when the president spoke March 29 at the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Life & Style

Avengers get epic send-off at 'Endgame' world premiere

LOS ANGELES (AP)—There were more than a few sniffles from the audience at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame" Monday night in Los Angeles, which Chris Evans and Chris Hemsworth proudly admitted contributing to.

"I don't know about you, but I cried like six times," Evans said standing alongside dozens of his Marvel Cinematic Universe co-stars like Scarlett Johansson, Brie Larson and Robert Downey Jr. after the first public screening of the film.

Hemsworth chimed in too: "I cried more than six times, Chris."

It was an emotional affair for many as "Avengers: Endgame," which opens nationwide Thursday, closes the book on the first 11 years and 22 films of the MCU, and ends the year-long cliffhanger of "Avengers: Infinity War," in which half of humanity turned to dust. And, as Hemsworth reminded on the purple carpet, "this grouping may never happen again."

Marvel and Walt Disney Co. held the premiere in a fittingly massive setting, taking over the Los Angeles Convention Center and constructing a 2,000-seat movie theater, including a large format screen and Dolby sound, inside.

Disney Chairman and CEO Bob Iger kicked off the evening with a special thanks to two people—Downey, "the person who really helped to start it all," and Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige, who he called, "our own superhero."

The event was a who's who of Marvel and Hollywood, with actors and directors from MCU films past and present turning out to see the film, including the likes of Natalie Portman, Gwyneth Paltrow, Bradley Cooper, Jon Favreau and even Matt Damon, who some may remember had a cameo in "Thor: Ragnarok." Luke Hemsworth, Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus also came out to see the film and support their family.

AP
Chris Evans, left, and Gwyneth Paltrow arrive at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame" at the Los Angeles Convention Center on Monday, April 22, 2019.

Although official reviews won't be out until Tuesday afternoon, initial reactions from press and insiders at the premiere were largely positive with the words "epic" and "emotional" being tossed out by many. Letitia Wright, who plays Shuri in "Black Panther," tweeted "Wow, I feel like crying...it was amazing!!"

The New York Times' Dave Itzkoff wrote that he was, "Not prepared for the range of emotions that #Endgame put me through, from utter despair to pure elation."

Entertainment Weekly's Anthony Breznican added: "Epic is the word. Epic multiplied by a decade of emotion, excitement and investment. This is the payoff. It left me with a full heart."

And People Magazine's Kara Warner said to "see it as soon as you can and go in as blind as possible."

Bill Cosby fighting $1 million a month legal bill in arbitration

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A fee dispute between actor Bill Cosby and one of the many law firms hired to address his legal problems shows the Los Angeles firm alone was billing Cosby $1 million a month in the run-up to his first sex assault trial.

The imprisoned Cosby is challenging a California arbitration award that upholds nearly $7 million of the $9.2 million billed by Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan for nine months work.

Cosby, 81, accused the firm in a petition Friday of elder abuse and "egregious" billing practices, and of fraud for representing both him and the insurance company he was fighting in court, American International Group Inc., over his coverage.

The Quinn Emanuel team was led by partner Christopher Tayback, the son of the late actor Vic Tayback. Quinn Emanuel had been retained to represent Cosby in three lawsuits in late 2015, but eventually had 28 lawyers working on 10 cases involving 14 accusers across the country as Cosby's legal woes snowballed. The lawyers made about $500 to $1,075 per hour.

Cosby paid the firm $2 million while AIG kicked in $2.3 million, the documents show. The arbitration panel this year upheld $6.7 million in fees, leaving Cosby with a bill of about $2.4 million. His petition seeks a review of that decision and a refund of the money he paid.

The Quinn Emanuel team was among more than a dozen lawyers to help Cosby defend a dizzying array of legal problems across the country as dozens of women came forward to accuse him of sexual misconduct or defamation.

Cosby said he never knew the scope of the firm's work—in part because of his age and blindness—as it began exploding after his December 2015 arrest in Pennsylvania. The arbiters found Quinn Emanuel had kept Cosby's personal lawyer informed along the way. The firm worked on the criminal case beside lead lawyer Brian McMonagle and others before parting ways with Cosby in mid 2016, long before the first criminal trial the next year. Cosby was convicted at a 2018 retrial of drugging and molesting a woman at his Philadelphia-area home in 2004. He is serving a three- to 10-year prison term and appealing the conviction.

Brothers sue Jussie Smollett's lawyers, claiming defamation

CHICAGO (AP)—Two brothers who say they helped Jussie Smollett stage a racist and homophobic attack against himself sued the "Empire" actor's attorneys on Tuesday, accusing them of defamation by continuing to insist publicly that the brothers carried out a real, bigoted attack on Smollett despite knowing that wasn't true.

Abimbola "Abel" Osundairo and Olabinjo "Ola" Osundairo said in a joint statement issued after their lawsuit was filed in federal court in Chicago that Smollett's legal team has spread false accusations that have hurt their reputations and undermined their career prospects.

"We have sat back and watched lie after lie being fabricated about us in the media only so one big lie can continue to have life," they said. "These lies are destroying our character and reputation in our personal and professional lives."

In their lawsuit , the Osundairos contend that even after prosecutors dropped the charges against Smollett while simultaneously saying they could prove the attack was a hoax, Smollett's attorneys kept saying in interviews that the Chicago-born brothers "led a criminally homophobic, racist and violent attack against Mr. Smollett."

"Mr. Smollett's attorneys, faced with an outraged public, did not retreat after their success (in getting charges dropped). Instead, they doubled down," states the lawsuit, which names celebrity attorney Mark Geragos, fellow lawyer Tina Glandian and Geragos' Los Angeles-based law firm as defendants.

In a joint statement, Geragos and Glandian called the lawsuit "ridiculous" and "a desperate attempt" by the brothers "to stay relevant and further profit from an attack they admit they perpetrated."

"We look forward to exposing the fraud the Osundairo brothers and their attorneys have committed on the public," they added.

Alec Baldwin is passionate about preserving the planet

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Actor Alec Baldwin said Tuesday that his passion about preserving the planet for future generations was sparked by meeting indigenous people who are guardians of their lands at the 2015 Paris conference that adopted the landmark agreement to tackle global warming.

Baldwin was at U.N. headquarters to moderate a panel on threats to "Forest Defenders" on the sidelines of the annual meeting of the U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and spoke to several journalists about his commitment to the environment.

He said he finds it "very, very unsettling" that indigenous people who understand better than anyone else the places where they live face strong opposition from those in power who want "to get rid of them by whatever means necessary" and gain control of natural resources on the land. Baldwin pointed to killings of indigenous activists in Peru and Brazil, and deforestation in rainforests in the Amazon and Asia that are "the lungs of the planet" as examples.

Rukka Sombolinggi, secretary-general of Indonesia's Indigenous People's Alliance of the Archipelago who was sitting beside Baldwin, added that 10 indigenous activists are currently behind bars in her country.

She said world leaders will "have to stop talking and negotiating" at the U.N. climate summit coming up in September. "They just really need to agree on actions" to preserve "mother Earth," Sombolinggi said.

Baldwin, who plays U.S. President Donald Trump on the NBC comedy series "Saturday Night Live," interjected to laughter: "Can't you move here and run for senator?"

"We need someone to say, 'No more talking,'" he said. "We need you in Washington!"

Baldwin said Americans feel they are going to do the right thing because of their resources and economic power, "but you find that we're becoming more and more like other parts of the world where anything goes, regulations being set aside."

Garner graces cover of People's annual 'Beautiful Issue'

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Garner graces the front of this year's "Beautiful Issue" of People magazine with a cover story that cheers the way she balances Hollywood, business and motherhood.

The magazine revealed the cover Tuesday of the annual issue that hits newsstands Friday.

On the cover, the Texas-born, West Virginia-raised Garner, 47, is shown sitting on the hood of a car with grassy hills in the background along with the quote, "I'm grateful every day."

Garner

The "Alias" actress is co-founder of a baby food company, acts as an artist-ambassador for Save The Children, and is mother to three kids with ex-husband Ben Affleck: 13-year-old Violet, 10-year-old Seraphina and 7-year-old Samuel.

"I'm starting to get to the point where I realize this job is not going to be forever," Garner told people. "Not in the all-encompassing every meal, every moment, every day way that I have loved for the last thirteen years. It's going to shift. But there's beauty in how it works in episodes."

Garner said that when she arrives home from a fancy photo shoot, her kids object to her glam get-up and want their mother back.

"They'll look at me and say, 'Can you wash your face? Can you put your hair in a ponytail and put your glasses and sweats on?'" Garner said. "And I see the compliment in that. They just want me to look like Mom."

Last year the magazine rebranded its "Most Beautiful" issue as "The Beautiful Issue," to make clear, its editors said, that it's not a contest.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Jeweler, Sarah Jessica Parker settle breach-of-contract suit

NEW YORK (AP) — Sarah Jessica Parker and a British jeweler have settled a breach-of-contract lawsuit against the actress. A joint statement released Tuesday says the parties have "resolved their differences" and are excited to "resume their partnership." Kat Florence Design sued Parker, arguing that she had agreed to promote a collaborative jewelry line of diamonds and other gems for a fee of $7.5 million but failed to live up to the obligation. Parker filed a lawsuit of her own, saying payments from the designer were "abruptly and without notice or explanation stopped" in October 2016. She said she was paid about $1.3 million. Details of the settlement in New York were not disclosed.

Ukraine police find Impressionist painting stolen in France

KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian police have recovered a painting by French Impressionist Paul Signac stolen from a French museum. Police chief Serhiy Knyazev said the 1915 painting depicting the port of La Rochelle was found in the possession of a man who was arrested in Kiev on suspicion of involvement in a killing. The painting, estimated to be worth 1.5 million euros ($1.7 million), was stolen from The Museum of Fine Arts in the city of Nancy last May. Knyazev said Tuesday that several Ukrainians suspected of involvement in the theft were arrested. Police believe that the same suspects could have been involved in the theft of a painting by Auguste Renoir in Vienna last year. The French ambassador to Kiev, Isabelle Dumont, thanked the Ukrainian police for recovering the painting.

Michelle Obama headlines college signing day event at UCLA

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Former first lady Michelle Obama and a host of celebrities will join thousands of students to celebrate college signing day. Obama, Conan O'Brien, Kelly Rowland, Bebe Rexha, Jesse Williams, Usher, Pentatonix, La La Anthony, Don Cheadle, and other entertainers and athletes are slated to gather on the UCLA campus on May 1 to commemorate the day that high school students choose to pursue higher education. Events also are planned throughout the U.S. This will mark Obama's sixth college signing day that she has celebrated with Reach Higher. As first lady, Obama used the Reach Higher initiative to inspire high school students to continue their education by attending college, a training program, or joining the military.

War veteran Paul Scharre wins award for book 'Army of None'

NEW YORK (AP) — A veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan has won a $5,000 award named for the late CIA director William E. Colby. Paul Scharre's "Army of None: Autonomous Weapons and the Future of War" is this year's winner of the Colby prize, given annually since 1999 by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont. Announced Tuesday, the award is presented for a work of fiction or non-fiction about military history, intelligence operations or international affairs. Scharre's writings have appeared in The New York Times and Time magazine among other publications, and he has been a commentator for CNN, Fox News and the BBC. Runners-up for the Colby award were former director of National Intelligence James Clapper's "Facts and Fears" and Pulitzer Prize winner Ronan Farrow's "War on Peace."

FATHER DEAR ESSENCE VIA AP

This cover image released by Essence shows Sean "Diddy" Combs, background center, posing with his children, from left, Quincy, 27, Jesse, 12, Christian, 21, Chance, 12, D'Lila, 12, and Justin, 25, on the digital edition of the 49th anniversary issue of the magazine. Combs has opened up about life after the sudden death of his former girlfriend Kim Porter. In excerpts posted online, Combs offered his gratitude for the outpouring of love after Porter's passing on Nov. 15, 2018 from complications from pneumonia. Porter is the mother of three of his children, Christian and twin girls Jesse and D'Lila.

Honest teen loses motivation as classmates win by cheating

DEAR ABBY: My son attends an excellent public high school and has done very well. His class is scheduled to graduate in a few weeks, and "Brent" has been accepted to an excellent university.

My concern is Brent routinely reports blatant and widespread cheating throughout the school. The valedictorian cheated his way to the top of the class, a neighbor will be attending Princeton even though she was repeatedly caught cheating on tests, and another neighbor cheated on the ACT to achieve a score disproportionate to her grades and SAT scores, which allowed her admission to a distinguished university.

The school turns a blind eye to the cheating and provides only nominal punishment in cases too blatant to ignore. Brent has become disenchanted and cynical about the administration and maintaining his integrity. What advice can I give my son when all around there are examples of cheaters coming out on top?

NOT A CHEATER

DEAR NOT A CHEATER: The cheaters may have cut in line, but don't view it as coming out on top. Point out to your son that sooner or later cheaters are usually unmasked when they arrive at college unprepared. The best advice you can give Brent would be to hang onto his integrity, resist the temptation to become bogged down in what others are doing, and study hard because—sooner or later—excellence and ethics are recognized.

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Stella," and I have been married 52 years. We have a daughter, "Candy," who we adopted at 3 weeks old. By the time Candy was 12 or 13, she started having less-than-desirable friends and drinking alcohol with them. Long story short, she graduated from high school, got married, then divorced, married again and has two daughters she has never raised.

We have taken our daughter to psychologists since she was 14 or 15, paid for educational opportunities she didn't complete and bought her several cars. She got into drugs and wound up in prison. Once out of prison, Stella and I sent her to three rehabilitation facilities. She walked away from the last two.

Our daughter is now 46. I am ready to stop trying to help her, but Stella, whom I love dearly, doesn't seem to be able to stop. I feel we are being enablers and should let Candy deal with her choices without further support from us. Any thoughts or comments?

OVER IT IN OKLAHOMA

DEAR OVER IT: I agree with you. By now Stella should realize that whatever she does to help Candy won't make her independent. Your wife may feel compelled to continue because she feels responsible for the way Candy has turned out, but the only person who can help Candy is herself.

Because this is causing discord in your marriage, you and your wife should discuss this with a marriage and family therapist who may be able to help Stella recognize that she has done enough for the daughter she so clearly loves.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

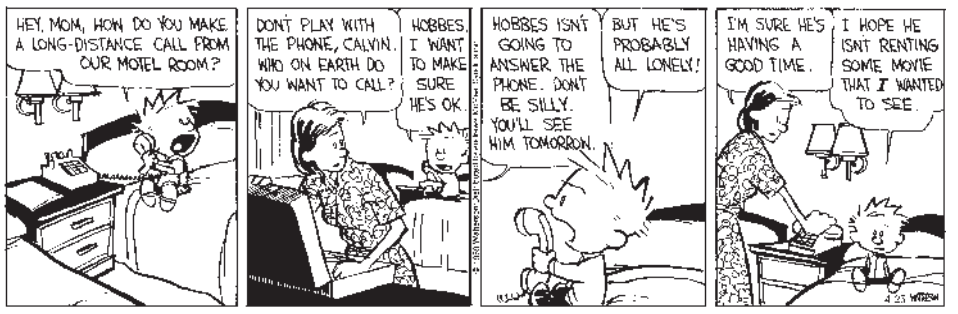
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

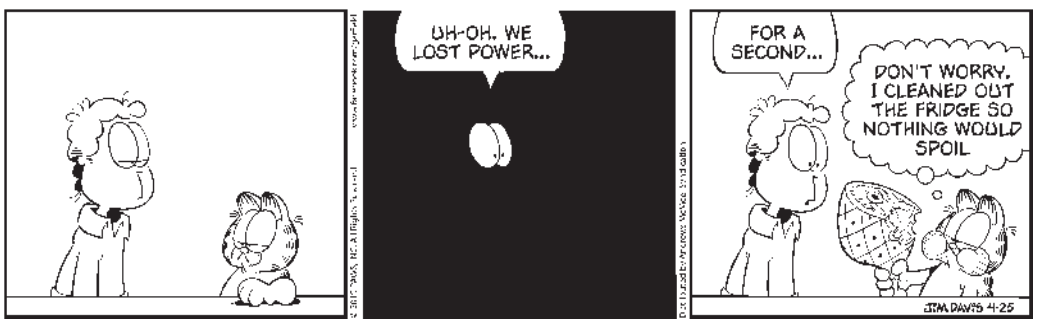
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HEY, MOM, HOW DO YOU MAKE A LONG-DISTANCE CALL FROM OUR MOTEL ROOM?
DON'T PLAY WITH THE PHONE, CALVIN. WHO ON EARTH DO YOU WANT TO CALL?
HOBBES. I WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S OK.
HOBBES ISN'T GOING TO ANSWER THE PHONE. DON'T BE SILLY. YOU'LL SEE HIM TOMORROW.
BUT HE'S PROBABLY ALL LONELY!
I'M SURE HE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME.
I HOPE HE ISN'T RENTING SOME MOVIE THAT I WANTED TO SEE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



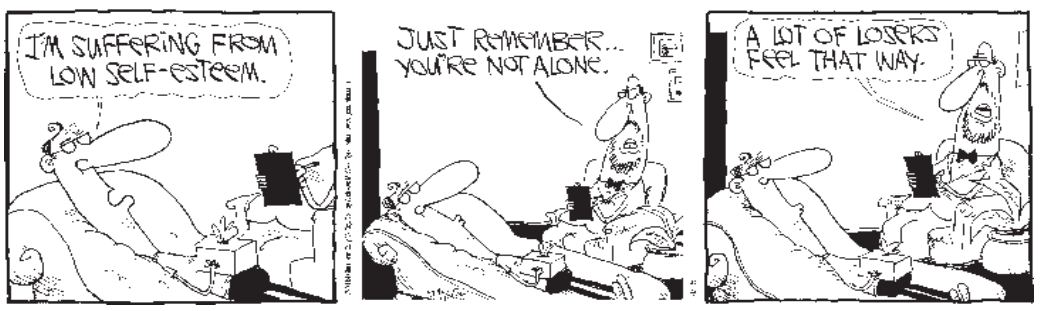
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY NEW STREET MAGICIAN LOOK?
IT'S STUPID. LET'S SEE A TRICK.
WHOOP!
GOT YOUR NOSE!
AAAA!!
IS THAT KATY SCREAMING?
CLAYTON. I TOLD HIM NOT TO NOSE HER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

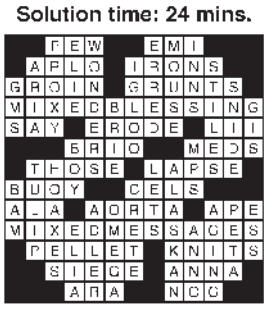
ACROSS

1 Stitched
5 Bol. neighbor
8 Urban haze
12 Rue the run
13 Six, in Sicily
14 "I did it!"
15 Corp. VIP
16 Not on
17 Goals
18 Summer goal
20 See to
22 Coffee variety
26 Macadamized
29 Galley item
30 Old Oldsmobile
31 "Sad to say ..."
32 Director Lee
33 Tarzan's transport
34 Dress
35 Author Umberto
36 Wedding rings
37 Rich coffee lightener
40 Coffin support
41 Serviette
45 No neatnik
47 Dos Passos trilogy
49 Early Peruvian
50 Actor Hackman
51 Computer key
52 Aussie hoppers
53 Turner and Danson
54 Filming site
55 Sicilian peak

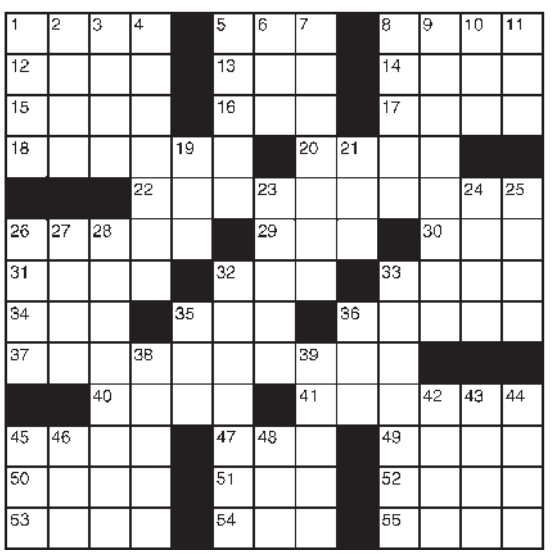
DOWN

1 Easy targets
2 Beige
3 Timely query?
4 Gets comfy
5 For — (cheaply)
6 Ump
7 Present attachment
8 Shorthand pro
9 Variety of orange
10 Peculiar
11 Helium, for one
19 Succor
21 Mess up
23 Esteem
24 Transmit
25 Low digits
26 Walkway
27 Lotion additive
28 Wanderer
32 Amasses
33 "Twilight" character
35 Needle hole
36 Sheep call
38 Feelings, informally
39 Put into law
42 Shoelace snarl
43 PC picture
44 Houston acronym
45 Pvt.'s superior
46 Author Harper
48 Away from NNW

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Lee, 49; Renee Zellweger, 50; Hank Azaria, 55; Al Pacino, 79.

Happy Birthday: Deal with each situation you face separately. There will be highs and lows, but regardless of what comes your way, control will be what makes the difference between stagnating and reaching your objective. Don't let the past interfere with what you want in the future. Show how individualistic you can be, and you'll gain respect, followers and help achieving your goals. Your numbers are 2, 16, 22, 24, 30, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider the possibilities, but don't be too quick to let others know your plans. Preparation will make a difference to the way things unfold. If you lack confidence, someone else will take over as well as take credit for what you do. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Step into the spotlight. If you stand up for your beliefs, you will encourage others to do the same. Opportunity is something you go after, not something that comes to you. Be ready to jump in and take over. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Choose the people you associate with carefully. Having common interests and goals will help you avoid involvement in situations that aren't conducive to getting ahead. Take a pass if someone suggests ignoring a rule or regulation. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Put less emphasis on appearances and more on your pursuits. Don't worry so much about what others think when it's what you do that counts. Surround yourself with people who are supportive and willing to offer positive suggestions and hands-on help. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Explore possibilities, meet new people and consider what you want to do next. Communication and educational events will lead to the guidelines required to change what isn't working for you into something that will. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to let anyone stand between you and the things you want to do. Walk away from people using emotional tactics or lies to squelch your personal growth. Gravitate toward opportunities and self-improvement. A lifestyle change will do you good. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Walk away from unfair situations. Form relationships with those who want to learn and explore the same things you do. Partnerships can be good if you are with the right person. Don't saddle yourself with responsibilities that don't belong to you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* If you crave change, do something about it. Attending a reunion or connecting with someone from your past will help you revisit dreams and ideas you have yet to accomplish. An unexpected proposal will lead to research and new possibilities. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Home, family and personal relationships are highlighted. Refuse to let anyone interfere in the importance of spending time with the ones you love. Don't let anyone meddle in your personal affairs. Choose love and romance over discord and chaos. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You stand to make some money or improve your assets if you make changes to your home or the way you live. Cut costs or sell off things you no longer need, and you'll feel good about what you've achieved. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* How you handle your domestic affairs and personal finances will make a difference to the way others perceive you. If someone tries to recruit you or persuade you to be a follower, find your own path and do your own thing. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Avoid trouble. If someone is being impossible to deal with or trying to entice you into something decadent, walk away. You'll do best if you associate with people pursuing a good cause. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are ambitious, risky and opportunistic. You are aggressive and courageous.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		3			5		8	4
2	7							9
		9			4			
					3	7		5
9		2	1					
			3			4		
7							3	2
6	9		8				5	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	1	7	5	2	3	8	6	9
9	8	2	1	4	6	3	5	7
5	6	3	8	9	7	1	2	4
3	2	4	6	1	9	5	7	8
7	5	6	4	8	2	9	3	1
8	9	1	3	7	5	6	4	2
6	4	9	2	5	8	7	1	3
2	7	5	9	3	1	4	8	6
1	3	8	7	6	4	2	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

BOARDING PASSES Solution: 8 letters

C	P	N	O	I	T	A	R	T	S	I	G	E	R	S
I	A	T	A	C	W	C	E	T	I	C	K	E	T	T
T	P	R	C	I	O	N	L	I	N	E	G	P	C	A
Y	E	U	G	N	R	B	E	M	A	N	I	A	I	E
M	R	R	T	O	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	S	R	S
I	O	R	C	R	N	T	I	S	T	E	A	S	T	R
A	O	E	H	T	A	S	S	S	I	I	P	E	S	E
L	D	V	E	C	L	A	C	F	R	S	P	S	E	D
C	E	O	C	E	P	I	I	L	A	V	I	R	R	A
E	D	Y	K	L	T	T	I	S	S	U	E	D	T	E
L	O	A	I	E	N	N	A	G	E	N	T	S	E	R
I	C	L	N	E	E	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	D
B	R	G	D	E	P	A	R	T	U	R	E	Y	T	A
O	A	I	R	C	R	A	F	T	N	I	R	P	A	T
M	B	O	A	R	D	O	C	U	M	E	N	T	G	E

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Agents, Aircraft, Airline, App, Arrival, Barcode, Board, Cargo, Check In, City, Claim, Control, Date, Departure, Document, Door, Electronic, Gate, IATA, Identifies, Issued, Layover, Magnetic Strip, Mobile, Name, Number, Online, Paper, Passenger, Passes, Plan, Print, Readers, Registration, Restrict, Row, Scheduled, Seat, Side, Stub, Ticket

Yesterday's Answer: Woodstock

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POSITION: CLIENT ADVOCATE
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REPORTS TO: PROGRAM MANAGER

OVERVIEW:

This is a non-exempt position for non-legal advocacy on behalf of clients with disabilities primarily on Saipan which includes direct client representation and general outreach activities in the community. The Client Advocate reports to the Program Manager and works within prescribed NMPASI standards, policies and procedures with some latitude for independent action.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ An Associates Degree (A.A. or A.S.) in any related field or no less than 60 credit hours from a post secondary school; and
- ✓ Two (2) years of experience that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the principles and practices of the work in protection and advocacy systems or other related fields.

HOW TO APPLY:
Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION SUBMISSION WILL BE ON MAY 6, 2019 AT 4PM.

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Sales still winless, as Tigers sweep Red Sox

BOSTON— Chris Sale remained winless after five starts but struck out a season-high 10 in five innings as the Detroit Tigers beat the Boston Red Sox, 7-4, Tuesday to start their first doubleheader sweep at Fenway Park since August 1965.

Spencer Turnbull (1-2) pitched five shutout innings for his first major league win, leading the Tigers to a 4-2 victory in the nightcap that left the World Series champions at 9-15.

Brandon Dixon greeted Marcus Walden with a three-run double after the Tigers loaded the bases against Hector Velázquez (0-2), and the Red Sox were swept in a twin-bill for the first time since the Los Angeles Angels accomplished the feat on July 20, 2015.

Sale gave up two runs, five hits and two walks, lowering his ERA from 8.50 to 7.43. The 30-year-old, who signed a $160 million, six-year contract late in spring training, had never gone his first five starts in a big league season without a victory.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Christian Vazquez tags out Detroit Tigers' Nicholas Castellanos (9) at home plate during the ninth inning of the first game of a baseball doubleheader in Boston, Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

Mets 9, Phillies 0

In New York, Zack Wheeler hit his first major league home run and struck out 11 in seven sharp innings as the Mets handed the Philadelphia Phillies their fifth loss in six games.

The only spirit the Phillies showed came with two outs in the ninth when two fastballs by Mets reliever Jacob Rhame sailed over Rhys Hoskins' head. The benches started to clear after the first time, and Hoskins angrily slung his bat after the next one, which was ball four.

Wheeler also doubled and drove in three runs and Todd Frazier connected for a grand slam that made it 8-0 in the fifth.

Bryce Harper was hitless in three at-bats, striking out twice before leaving for a substitute.

Cubs 7, Dodgers 2

In Chicago, José Quintana pitched seven crisp innings in his third straight win, and the Cubs used a fast start to beat the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Willson Contreras hit a three-run double in Chicago's four-run first, and Anthony Rizzo added a two-run drive in the second. Javier Báez had two hits, a memorable infield single in the second and a solo shot in the seventh.

It was more than enough support for Quintana (3-1), who turned in another gem in the Cubs' sixth win in seven games. The veteran left-hander allowed two runs and four hits while improving to 3-0 with a sparkling 0.86 ERA since he was hit hard in a loss at Milwaukee on April 5.

Rays 5, Royals 2

In St. Petersburg, Jalen Beeks took over from opener Ryne Stanek in the second and struck out seven in 4 2/3 shutout innings, Mike Zunino homered for the second straight game and the Tampa Bay Rays beat Kansas City, sending the Royals to their fifth straight loss.

Homer Bailey (2-2) failed in his attempt to win three straight starts for the first time in five years, getting taken out after Tampa Bay's first four batters reached in the second inning.

Marlins 3, Indians 1

In Cleveland, Pablo López allowed just two hits in his longest start this season and Jorge Alfaro homered on reliever Neil Ramírez's first pitch, moments after Indians starter Carlos Carrasco left with another injury in the Florida Marlins win.

López (2-3) stopped a three-start losing streak. The right-hander, who had not gone more than 5 1/3 innings, held the Indians without a hit until the sixth and was not charged with an earned run in 6 1/3 innings.

Miami closer Sergio Romo worked the ninth for his third save, completing a three-hitter as the Marlins improved to 2-5 on the road.

Orioles 9, White Sox 1

In Baltimore, Dwight Smith Jr. hit a three-run homer, one of four long balls off Iván Nova, and the Orioles overpowered the Chicago White Sox to end a four-game losing streak.

Renanto Núñez, Chris Davis and Joey Rickard also connected for the Orioles, who improved their home record to 2-10 before a cozy, appreciative crowd of 8,953.

Andrew Cashner (4-1) gave up one run, five hits and a walk over seven innings to win his fourth straight decision. Just as important, he provided much needed rest to a bullpen that was drained in a 12-2 loss to Chicago one night earlier.

Diamondbacks 2, Pirates 1

In Pittsburgh, Jarrod Dyson dived around catcher Francisco Cervelli but was only credited with the winning run after a replay review, and the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Pirates.

Dyson bolted from third base on David Peralta's grounder in the sixth. Second baseman Adam Frazier fielded and threw home, and Dyson went head-first past Cervelli as the backstop applied the tag. Plate umpire Gerry Davis called Dyson out, but the call was quickly overturned on review. Dyson's left hand touched the plate just before Cervelli's glove tapped him on the back.

Reds 7, Braves 6

In Cincinnati, Yasiel Puig hit a two-run homer in the first inning off the facade of the second deck in left-center field, and the Reds wasted an early lead and then rallied to beat the Atlanta Braves.

José Peraza had his first RBIs since homering on opening day, and Tucker Barnhart homered for the Reds, who have won four of five following a four-game losing streak.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 3

In St. Louis, Paul DeJong hit a tiebreaking, leadoff homer in the eighth inning, Yadier Molina had three hits and two RBIs, and the Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers.

Milwaukee had three solo homers, two by Travis Shaw and another by Orlando Arcia. The Brewers had four solo homers in a 13-5 loss Monday.

DeJong took reliever Alex Wilson (1-1) deep to make it 3-2. Molina hit his second double with one out, scoring Jose Martinez, who had walked to go with two singles. Molina stole third but was stranded there. It was his first stolen base this season and the 17th time he's stolen third in his career.

Giants 7, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Pablo Sandoval went 3-for-4 and homered for the first time this year, one of a season-high four home runs for San Francisco, and the offensively challenged Giants outlasted the Toronto Blue Jays.

Joe Panik, Evan Longoria and Brandon Belt also homered for the Giants, who came in 29th in the majors in batting and ahead of just one team in home runs. It was San Francisco's first four-homer game since July 4, 2018, against Arizona.

Astros 10, Twins 4

In Houston, after losing three straight games following tough first innings by his starters, Astros manager A.J. Hinch thought his team was in for another long night on Tuesday after Wade Miley allowed three runs in the first.

But instead, Miley shook off his bad start to get on track and help the Astros end a three-game skid with a victory over the Minnesota Twins.

Jose Altuve hit a three-run homer and Alex Bregman added three RBIs in the victory.

The game was tied in the seventh when Trevor Hildenberger (2-1) allowed a single to Tyler White before issuing consecutive walks to Altuve and George Springer to load the bases with one out. Bregman's sacrifice fly to right field put Houston up 5-4 and chased Hildenberger.

Yankees 7, Angels 5

In Anaheim, Yankees slugger Luke Voit showed last season what an unproven player can gain when injuries create opportunities for playing time.

With New York depleted almost beyond recognition, Mike Ford and the rest of this year's injury replacements are seizing their moment.

Voit homered twice and Ford went deep for the first time in the majors to lead New York over the Los Angeles Angels. The Yankees have won five straight and seven of their last eight despite having 13 players on the injured list.

"It's fun. Guys are stepping up in big-time roles," said Voit, who got his third multihomer game and extended his hitting streak to 10. "A lot of guys are going to be coming back and players are going to be going up and down, but there's always a chance to make a name for yourself now."

Athletics 11, Rangers 5

In Oakland, Athletics pitcher Frankie Montas didn't have much success trying to pump his fastball past Texas' hitters early and spent most of the game working through traffic.

Montas calmed down enough to work out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the fourth, just before Oakland broke out for its biggest inning of the season.

Matt Chapman homered and walked three times, Marcus Semien had a two-run double as part of a six-run fourth inning and the A's beat the Rangers.

Padres 6, Mariners 3

In San Diego, Austin Hedges' unusual two-run home run came with an assist from Mariners center fielder Mallex Smith.

Hedges' fly ball to deep center field bounced out of Smith's glove and over the fence, Franmil Reyes homered twice and had three RBIs, and the San Diego Padres beat AL West-leading Seattle.

Hedges, the catcher, also had a brilliant defensive play for the Padres, who have won five straight in the interleague series.

Lillard hits dramatic series-clinching 3-pointer

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Damian Lillard hit a 37-footer at the buzzer and finished with career playoff-high 50 points to help the Portland Trail Blazers eliminate the Oklahoma City Thunder from the playoffs in five games with a 118-115 victory on Tuesday night.

With the game tied, Lillard dribbled just inside of halfcourt near the Blazers logo and then pulled up and hit the game-winner.

Lillard waved goodbye to the Thunder bench after nailing the shot, then was promptly mobbed by his teammates. As the Thunder left the floor, Lillard circled the court, high-fiving fans.

The crowd chanted "MVP! MVP!"

Lillard had 10 3-pointers, breaking the franchise record.

Portland advances to the Western Conference semifinals to face the winner of the series between the Nuggets and San Antonio. Denver won 108-90 earlier in the night to take a 3-2 lead in that series.

It was the 12th straight road playoff loss for the Thunder, who have been eliminated in the opening round for three straight seasons.

Russell Westbrook had 29 points, 11 rebounds and 14 assists for his 10th career playoff triple-double and his second of the series. Paul George added 36 points.

Lillard had 34 points in the first half alone—more than Westbrook and George had combined (32) for the Thunder—but the Blazers had just a 61-60 edge going into the second half.

The Thunder led 90-88 going into the final quarter. Westbrook hit a 3-pointer to extend the lead while Lillard took a break on the bench.

Oklahoma City went up 105-90 with 7:45 left on Dennis Schroder's pullup jumper as Portland struggled.

Lillard's 3-pointer pulled the Blazers within 108-103, but Westbrook answered with his own 3-pointer. CJ McCollum's bank shot cut Oklahoma City's lead to 113-109 with 1:39 left. Maurice Harkless added free throws to get the Blazers within two.

McCollum tied it with a jumper with just under a minute left, but George scored on the other end. Lillard's layup re-tied it before he hit his epic 3-pointer.

McCollum finished with 17 for the Blazers and Enes Kanter had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

AP

Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard, center, shoots as Oklahoma City Thunder center Steven Adams, center left, defends during the second half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Tuesday, April 23, 2019, in Portland, Ore. The Trail Blazers won, 118-115.

76ers 120, Nets 100

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid showed no mercy. He buried a 3-pointer that gave the 76ers a 24-point lead and waved his arms like a boss, exhorting an already jacked crowd to get louder.

Philly obeyed its most popular player and went wild—and the All-Star center believes the good times have only just started.

"We think we can win it all," Embiid said.

Ben Simmons thumped his chest after a big dunk , Embiid pointed toward an overmatched defender on a slam of his own, and Philadelphia flexed its offensive muscle from the opening tip to beat the Brooklyn Nets and close out their Eastern Conference playoff series in five games.

Up next, a second round series against the Toronto Raptors, who dropped their playoff opener before winning four straight against Orlando—the same thing the Sixers did to Brooklyn.

"We still have more to do. A lot more to do," coach Brett Brown said.

Any late arrivals missed the defining moments of the game from a jovial Sixers team that enjoyed toying with the sickly Nets.

The Sixers stunned the Nets with a 14-0 run in front of the loudest and rowdiest packed house of the season.

Embiid again shook off a bad left knee and had six points and five rebounds in the first two minutes to chants of "MVP!" The Nets later trailed 20-2, and Simmons put an exclamation point on the stunning first quarter when he drove the paint and used a right-handed jam to make it 32-12—with a thump of his chest for emphasis.

"They did whatever they wanted before we could even get on the board," Nets All-Star guard D'Angelo Russell said.

Raptors 115, Magic 96

In Toronto, the Raptors turned in another dominant defensive effort, extending their playoff winning streak to a team-record four and clinching a berth in the second round.

Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points, Pascal Siakam added 24 and the Raptors routed the Orlando Magic, winning their first-round playoff series in five games.

Kyle Lowry scored 14 points as the Raptors finished off the Magic with ease, bouncing back from a Game 1 defeat to win by double-digits in three of the next four. Toronto led by as many as 37 in the clincher, their biggest-ever margin in a playoff game.

"We kind of figured it out and made a good adjustment after Game 1," Lowry said. "We were a little bit too soft in coverages and we figured it out really quickly, what we wanted to do, how we needed to help each other and how we needed to play. To figure it out that quick is a really good thing for us. We've just got to continue to build off it."

Toronto will face Philadelphia in the second after the 76ers eliminated Brooklyn Tuesday.

Nuggets 108, Spurs 90

In Denver, After a sputtering start to their postseason, the Denver Nuggets are starting to look like the team that ended a six-year playoff drought in such dramatic fashion.

Nikola Jokic has a lot to do with it.

Jokic had 16 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists and fed Jamal Murray (23 points) repeatedly in Denver romp of the San Antonio Spurs.

"Their chemistry is almost romantic," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "They care about each other, they love each other. They play for each other. That's when we're at our best."

"I mean, we're growing," Jokic said. "We're both really passionate about basketball. So when we have some good plays or whatever, we just want to express our feelings."

Surprising second seed in the West, the Nuggets are up 3-2 and can advance to the second round for the first time in a decade with a win in Game 6 Thursday night in San Antonio, where they won last weekend for the first time since 2012.

Two weeks ago, Jokic overcame suffocating double teams to become the fourth player in NBA history to record a triple-double in his playoff debut and the first since LeBron James in 2006. But he scored just 10 points to go with 14 assists and 14 rebounds that night.

Lakers interview Kidd for head coaching job

Jason Kidd has reportedly entered the fray in the Los Angeles Lakers' coaching search.

According to ESPN and the Los Angeles Times, Kidd interviewed with Lakers general manager Rob Pelinka on Monday. Pelinka was accompanied by Kurt Rambis, a longtime Lakers player who now works as a team executive.

Kidd, a Hall of Fame point guard who served as head coach of the Brooklyn Nets and Milwaukee Bucks, is the third candidate to interview for the position vacated by Luke Walton.

Kidd, in five seasons as an NBA head coach, has a 183-190 record. He was fired midway through the 2017-18 season, his fourth in Milwaukee.

Tyronn Lue, LeBron James' former coach with the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Philadelphia 76ers assistant Monty Williams are the reported favorites for the Lakers job and have already spoken with the team. Williams, the former New Orleans Pelicans head coach, also has drawn interest from the Phoenix Suns, who fired Igor Kokoskov after just one season.

Walton, a few days after Magic Johnson's abrupt, out-of-nowhere departure from the Lakers, "parted ways" with the franchise after three seasons. The team went 37-45 this year, missing the playoffs for the sixth straight season.

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers' coaching search will venture into the Pacific Northwest.

Cleveland plans to interview Portland assistants Nate Tibbetts and David Vanterpool for its coaching job, a person familiar with the team's plans told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The Cavs have received permission to speak with Tibbetts and Vanterpool, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

The Cavs are being sensitive to Portland's playoff run and have not yet scheduled their interviews with Tibbetts or Vanterpool, who are considered rising coaching stars. The Trail Blazers host Oklahoma City on Tuesday night in Game 5 leading the series 3-1.

ESPN.com first reported the Cavs' interest.

Cleveland is looking for a new coach after parting ways with Larry Drew following a 19-63 season. Drew took over in October when Tyronn Lue was fired and guided the Cavs through a challenging season made tougher by injuries.

The Cavs, who have previously interviewed Miami assistant Juwan Howard and Dallas assistant Jamahl Mosley, are being deliberate in their search and have not established a time frame to make a hire. They are considering NBA assistants as well as college coaches.

The 41-year-old Tibbetts has Cleveland connections, working as an assistant on Byron Scott's staff from 2011-13. He's in his sixth season with the Blazers.

The 46-year-old Vanterpool has been with Portland since 2012. He's been linked to the opening in Phoenix as well.

Chiefs get Clark from Seahawks for draft picks

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The Kansas City Chiefs acquired pass rusher Frank Clark from the Seattle Seahawks for a package of picks Tuesday, then quickly agreed with him on a $105 million, five-year contract, as they continue to overhaul their much-maligned defense.

The Chiefs sent the No. 29 overall pick in this year's draft and a second-round pick in 2020 to Seattle, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke about the trade terms and contract details on condition of anonymity because they were pending a physical.

Clark planned to head to Kansas City to complete that in the next 48 hours.

The trade, first reported by the NFL Network, also includes a swap of third-round picks in this year's draft. That means the Chiefs will move up eight spots on Friday night.

Chiefs general manager Brett Veach said last week that he was aggressively trying to upgrade the defense, and he acknowledge the window for winning a Super Bowl title began last season. That's when Patrick Mahomes took over at quarterback and had an MVP season as a first-time starter, leading Kansas City to a third straight AFC West title and the conference championship game.

In this Aug. 6, 2018, file photo, Seattle Seahawks defensive end Frank Clark signs autographs following NFL football training camp, in Renton, Wash. The Kansas City Chiefs have agreed to acquire defensive end from the Seattle Seahawks in exchange for a first-round draft pick this year and a second-round pick in 2020.

"We want to take the next step," Veach said. "Certainly, it goes without saying our offense we pretty efficient last year and I think we are always looking to improve and get better."

Seattle already had the 21st pick overall pick Thursday night, and now general manager John Schneider has an additional first-day selection as he begins rebuilding his own defense.

Clark was chosen by the Seahawks in the second round of the 2015 draft, though most agreed he was a first-round talent docked by off-the-field concerns. But he quickly became a dependable edge rusher, piling up 36 sacks over his first four seasons with a team-best 14 this past season.

The Seahawks placed the franchise tag on him after the season, but Clark had yet to sign the $17.128 million deal as rumors of a trade swirled. Several other teams also inquired about landing him ahead of the draft as Seattle tried to accumulate additional picks.

"This time, and the trade deadline, there's some speculation about a lot of players," Schneider said on Monday. "We're involved in a lot of deals. We take a lot of pride in that. We wouldn't be doing our jobs if we weren't listening to everybody."

Kansas City ultimately won the bidding for him.

Veach has spent most of the offseason rebuilding one of the league's worst defenses, one that played a key role in their AFC title game collapse. They lost in overtime to New England when the Patriots won the coin toss, marched downfield and scored the winning touchdown in a 37-31 victory—never giving Mahomes and one of the NFL's most potent offenses a chance with the ball.

In a matter of days, the Chiefs fired defensive coordinator Bob Sutton, hired new coordinator Steve Spagnuolo and began sifting through their personnel as they switched from a 3-4 to a 4-3 system.

They got rid of longtime safety Eric Berry and high-priced linebackers Justin Houston and Dee Ford, sending the latter to San Francisco for a second-round pick next year, and carved out enough cap space to find replacements. They signed safety Tyrann Mathieu, cornerback Bashaud Breeland, linebacker Damien Wilson and defensive end Alex Okafor in free agency, then traded safety Eric Murray to former GM John Dorsey and the Cleveland Browns for defensive end Emmanuel Ogbah.

SCS

From Page 28

layup to move his team within 6, 16-22. Aleksenko and Miles Borja then chipped in one field goal apiece, while McDonald split his charities, cutting the deficit to 21-22, heading into the last period.

In the fourth quarter, SCS managed to overtake GCA and stole the win, thanks to McDonald and Aleksenko. McDonald led all scorers with his 14 points, while Aleksenko had 10, 6 of them came in the final canto.

Justin and Jason Du churned out 8 and 6 points for the Eagles, respectively, but had a meltdown in the second half.

With SCS stealing one from GCA, the Tsunamis improved to a 2-5 record. The Eagles still have a better record at 3-3.

Meanwhile, Agape Christian School continued its dominance in the boys division after hammering Saipan International School, 51-11.

David Zhang caught fire early and rattled off 10 points in the first period. He and Eason Tang carried the offensive load for the Torchbearers, who raced to a 14-0 lead and kept pounding the Geckos in the remaining quarters for the easy win.

Zhang finished with a game-high 26 points, while Tang contributed 12 markers, as Agape now holds a 7-0 record. SIS fell to a 4-3 card.

In other results, Northern Marianas International School routed Seventh Day Adventist, 34-11, at the latter's court in Chalan Kiya.

Eddie Valdoz and Justin Mateo spearheaded the Phoenix's winning cause after scoring 12 points apiece, while J.P. Pineda and John Balgos combined for 10. NMIS snapped its six-game losing skid and got its second win, while SDA continued its free fall, dropping to 1-7 record.

Games in the middle school league will continue tomorrow with GCA and Agape squaring off in a double-header at the former's court in Navy Hill, while SDA will host the Geckos.

Game 1

SCS 26—McDonald 14, Aleksenko 10, Borja 2.

GCA 24—Justin Du 8, Jason Du 6, Daproza 4, Adriatico 2, Lerio 2, Woo 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-10, 12-20, 21-22, 26-24

Game 2

ACS 51—Zhang 26, Tang 12, Bao 7, Dai 4, Miao 2

SIS 11—Nam 6, Chambers 3, Lee 2.

Scoring by quarters: 14-0, 23-6, 35-8, 51-11

Game 3

NMIS 34— Valdoz 12, Mateo 12, Pineda 6, Balgos 4.

SDA 11—Kaito Rechucher 5, Jin 4, Son 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-5, 20-7, 32-7, 34-11

MP

From Page 28

ings vs MP United and Southern United against Matansa) will go ahead as set.

With Kanoa drawing a bye tomorrow, it will have to wait for its May 10 match against Southern United to secure the division title. Kanoa holds a 6-0-0 record, two wins ahead of MP United (4-0-2).

In other divisions, Kanoa had already bagged the co-ed U12A crown and the club's squads are in contention for the boys U15 and girls U16 titles. Kanoa owns a 7-0-0 mark in the co-edU12 division with three games left in the competition. In the boys U15, Kanoa also has a 7-0-0 slate, just one victory ahead of MP United (6-0-1), while Kanoa (5-1-1) is ranked second in the girls U16 behind Southern United (6-1-0). Both the boys U15 and girls U16 divisions have three playing days left in the season.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MP United Football Club's Richard Steele, left, dribbles past a Kanoa FC defender during their game in the boys U15 division of the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League, which will resume this weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of April 24, 2019)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	7	7	0	0	53	8	45	21
MP United	7	3	0	4	20	26	-6	9
TanHoldings	7	3	0	4	24	31	-7	9
Shirley's	7	1	0	6	11	43	-32	3

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	7	7	0	0	59	3	56	21
MP United	7	6	0	1	33	5	28	18
TanHoldings	7	4	0	3	32	21	11	12
Shirley's	7	3	0	4	22	26	-4	9
Matansa	7	1	0	6	12	36	-24	3
Kanoa-2	7	0	0	7	5	72	-67	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	6	6	0	0	33	5	28	18
TanHoldings	6	4	0	2	23	9	14	12
Matansa	5	3	0	2	12	11	1	9
Kanoa	6	1	0	5	8	34	-26	3
U15NT	5	0	0	5	2	19	-17	0

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Southern United	7	6	1	0	26	3	23	19
Kanoa	7	5	1	1	34	14	20	16
TanHoldings	7	3	3	1	19	13	6	12
MP United	7	2	2	3	17	13	4	8
Matansa	7	1	1	5	6	27	-21	4
Paire	7	0	0	7	8	40	-32	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	6	6	0	0	54	12	42	18
MP United	6	4	0	2	54	25	29	12
Southern United	5	3	0	2	18	27	-9	9
TanHoldings	6	1	0	5	10	26	-16	3
Matansa	5	0	0	5	5	51	-46	0

7

From Page 28

Pacific Games that will run from July 7 to 20.

The rest of the team will work with Race. Miyawaki and Tan played in some junior events this season and will participate in the Saipan-hosted ITF Juniors world ranking event next month, while Cruz also appeared in a couple of tournaments early this year. Cruz last represented the CNMI in tennis during the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau where he won a bronze medal.

Meanwhile, Heras will be joining the on-island members of the team next month, as she will fly in from Utah. The 19-year-old is on her rookie year with the Dixie State University in the NCAA Division II and so far has a notable performance with the Trailblazers.

Heras won a singles match in Dixie State's come-from-behind 4-3 victory over Colorado Mesa in the season finale last weekend. The freshman and the rest of the Trailblazers will play in the 2019 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Championships in Grand Junction, Colorado this weekend.

Heras and her teammates on the national squad will be up against players from 16 other countries when the tennis competition takes place from July 9 to 19 at the Apia Park Tennis Courts.

Tennis will have the men's and women's singles, doubles and team events, and mixed doubles.

2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Savita Sikkel returns to Seiyul Hong during their girls U12 singles game in the 2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships last April 14 at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Juncheol Hwang returns to Isaac Heo during a warm-up for their doubles match.

Seen Lee serves to Sam Ryu. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Nason Wessel returns to Juncheol Hwang during the second set of their boys U12 singles championship game.

GRACE CHOI

Boys U10 singles champion Yutaka Kadokura, left, and runner-up Kirin Lee pose with their medals during the awards ceremony.

GRACE CHOI

Girls U18 doubles champions Malika Miyawaki, left, and Maria Gregoire, right, pose for a photo with runners-up Serin Chung, second left, and Hyejin Elliot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Sam Ryu hits a shot from the baseline during his boys U16 title match against Sean Lee.

Sales still winless, as Tigers sweep Red Sox

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Lillard hits dramatic series-clinching 3-pointer

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7 make national team

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Seven players have already secured spots on the CNMI National Tennis Team that will compete in the 2019 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa this summer.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association official and long-time national coach Jeff Race said the Commonwealth's women's crew will be led by ITF World (junior) No. 127 Carol Lee, while other members of the squad are Tania Tan, Malika Miyawaki, and Isabel Heras. As for the men's group, ITF World (pro) No. 65 Colin Sinclair will banner the team and will be joined by Robbie Schorr and Bobby Cruz. One more slot is left on the men's squad and two junior players are battling for the remaining spot.

Among the seven players, the pressure to deliver medals for the CNMI from the Pacific Games falls on Sinclair's shoulders, as he is the highest-ranked male player in the region. He has been competing in ITF World Tennis Tour since 2012 and has been successful in the previous two seasons. The 25-year-old's recent victory was in the $15,000 Claremont Club Pro Classic in California in February this year, as he clinched the singles title of the hard court event. Then last month, Sinclair also saw action in Mildura, Australia and Shenzhen and Zhangliagang, China.

In the women's division, the CNMI will be pinning its hopes on Lee, who is now in Europe to play in tournaments in Italy and Belgium. The 17-year-old will be competing in the 36th Torneo Bayer di Salsomaggiore in Parma, Italy this weekend. Last month, Lee trained at the International Tennis Federation/Confederation of African Tennis Regional Training Centre in Morocco and won her first tournament of the season after bagging the singles title in the ITF/CAT North African Circuit in Casablanca. She is the only Pacific Oceania junior player joining various tournaments in Morocco and Europe.

Lee will be reunited with Schorr at the ITF/Oceania Tennis Federation's regional facility in Fiji this June, as the two CNMI bets prepare for the

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CRUZ

HERAS

LEE

MIYAWAKI

SCHORR

SINCLAIR

TAN

SCS rallies past GCA

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Community School gutted out a 26-24 victory over Grace Christian Academy in the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Middle School Basketball League yesterday at SCS' court.

Behind by 8 after the first half, 12-20, SCS showed persistence on both ends of the floor in the second to complete the spirited come-from-behind win.

Isaiah Aleksenko nailed the go-ahead, as he converted a layup, a few minutes after Steve Adriatico tied the game for GCA with a 15-foot jumper. Before Aleksenko's dagger and Adriatico's equalizer, Charlie McDonald barreled his way through multiple GCA defenders and converted an and-1 play to put the Tsunamis on top, 24-22 lead.

McDonald also led SCS' uphill climb in the third quarter, as he nailed a floater and a

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

Saipan Community School's Isaiah Aleksenko, right, drives against a Grace Christian Academy defender during their game in the CCOPSA middle school caging yesterday at the SCS' court in Susupe.

MP United guns for back-to-back

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Games in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League will resume this weekend with MP United Football Club aiming to clinch the boys U18 division crown when it takes on TanHoldings Football Club tomorrow at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The possible title-deciding match is set for 5:30pm and will be followed by the 7:17pm tiff between the CNMI Boys U15 National Team and Matansa.

MP United holds an impressive 6-0-0 win-draw-loss, with two matches left (including tomorrow's game) in its schedule in the double round-robin competition, which took a brief break last weekend in observance of the Lenten season.

A victory or even a draw against TanHoldings, which owns a 4-0-2 mark, will hand MP United back-to-back division championships. MP United ruled the 2018 spring season after earning a 7-1-0 card, two victories ahead of TanHoldings (5-1-2).

After its crucial game against TanHoldings tomorrow, MP United will close out the season on May 16 when it duels the winless CNMI U15 (0-0-5). The May 6 showdown between MP United and CNMI U15 along with the Matansa-Kanoa match were originally set for May 3, but were rescheduled, as Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will be participating in the Marianas March Against Cancer.

After the May 3 cancelation, the division will go back to its original Friday schedule with TanHoldings playing its last game against Matansa and Kanoa having its penultimate match versus the CNMI U15.

Also rescheduled from May 3 to May 16 were the Matansa-Kanoa and MP United-Southern United duels in the girls U19 futsal division, while the April 26 matches (TanHold-

See MP on Page 26